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TOPICS OF THE DAY.

THE Government must foresee the probability of questions arising involving matters of cosmopolitan interest or they would never have promulgated so meagre a programme when the Session commenced. If they are wrong in their supposition, there is no reason why our senators should not retire from their labours when the Exhibition opens, and join in the general holiday and festivity which the disciples of peace, progress, and prosperity anticipate. The Estimates will not be left for the dog-days; and those senators who are not contented with the fascinations of Kensington will have ample opportunity for Continental rambling before they commence the murderous onslaught on the grouse upon the moors. No Reform Bill, no Government measure on church rates, nor even a consolidation of the law of bankruptcy so emphatically promised by the Lord Chancellor last year! If that country is happiest where there is the least legislation, truly we have arrived, as a nation, at the acme of human felicity. The reply to all impertinent interrogation from the optimists who believe that "whatever is, is right," must be that England is great, and that Palmerston is its Premier. To all sceptics as to the wisdom of this "masterly inactivity" the reply must be that a great Prince has died, and we must have leisure to mourn his loss and raise memorials to his memory—that a great chaotic struggle is pending in the Far West, and we must look on with anxious eyes—and that a great exhibition is to be opened, which has nothing to do with politics, and to enjoy which politics must be laid aside. We cannot say that we sympathise with the self-satisfied notion of our own perfection which dictates this quiescent and conservative course. Such a calm may be the treacherous prelude of coming tempest. A year hence it may be as much the fashion to be terribly discontented and tremendously progressive as it is now the fancy of the hour to bless our stars that we are as well off as we are and leave posterity to take care of themselves. Some members of posterity, however, not entirely content with our own self-laudations, may possibly read and write history for themselves, and history may not treat with rose-water eulogies the Cabinet and the Parliament that were

contented to signalise the Session of eighteen hundred and sixty-two by an attempt to carry a measure for ensuring the cheap transfer of land. When we say "an attempt," we are thinking of what may be the result of the efforts of the powerful class who will strain every nerve to obstruct and mutilate such a useful and salutary measure.

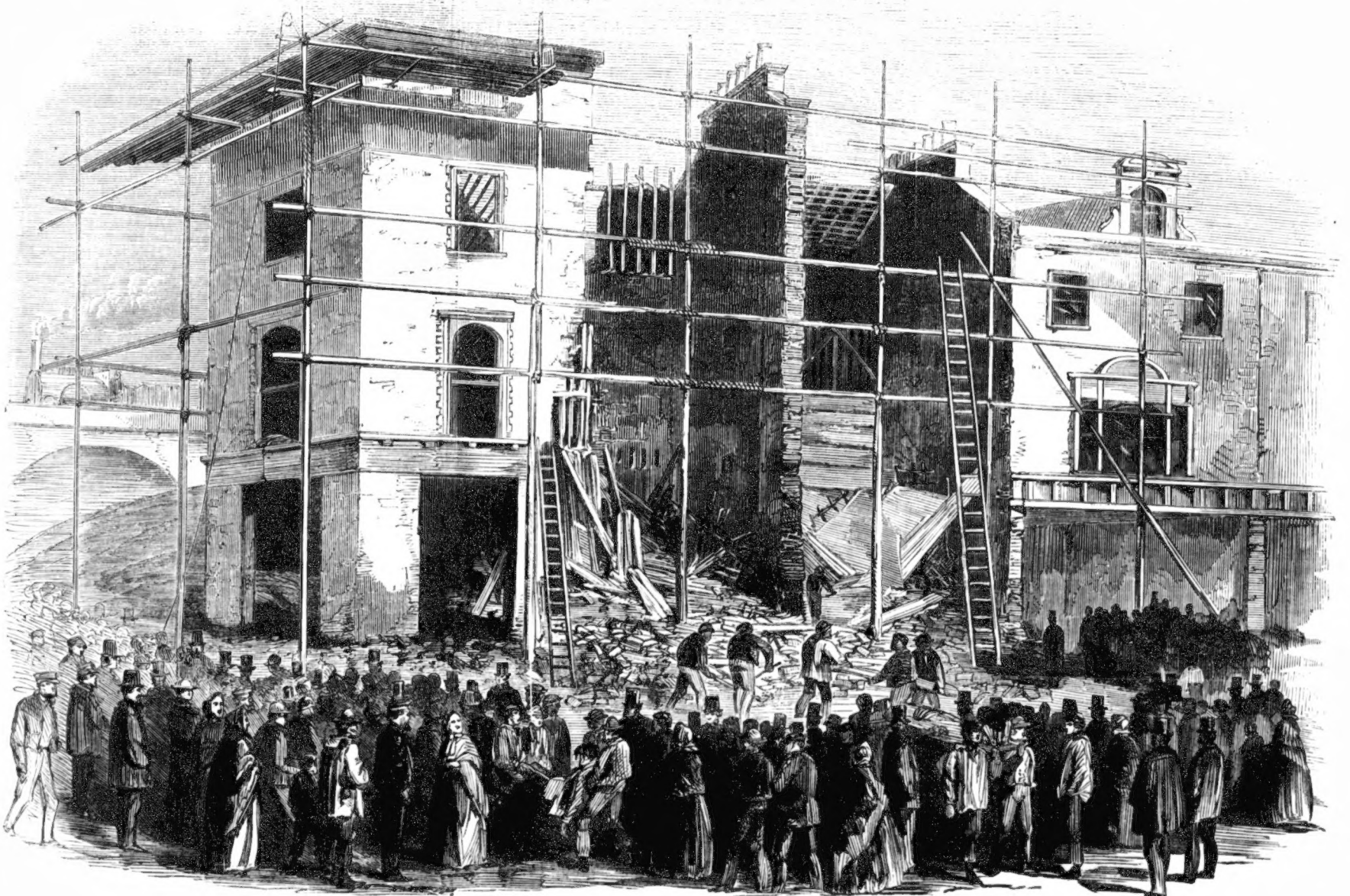
On Monday night Mr. Bright made a very remarkable and courageous speech in the House of Commons. It has occasionally been hinted by the assailants of this distinguished man that he says one thing to the country and another to the Legislature. Beyond the mere difference in style which any sensible man would adopt in speaking on a platform or in his place in Parliament, we have never believed this accusation to be true. On Monday night he was assuredly not guilty of any polite or time-serving reticence, and he was listened to with the utmost respect and attention while propounding opinions at variance with the sentiments of the majority of the audience that he addressed. Mr. Bright is, perhaps, the most useful independent member of Parliament. The tendency of such a body of men as constitute the House of Commons is to be almost entirely guided by a blind adherence to the maxims of expediency and the dictates of worldly prudence and common sense, and to therefore cease to have any ideal or high view of policy present to them. Of this the honourable member for Birmingham never loses sight, and it is for this reason that, however easy it may be to call him theoretical or crotchety, all that he says falls with weight and influence upon the ear of the House. He has been, we think, led astray by his unqualified admiration of American institutions and the American people. When he says that the Federal Government is not generally under the influence of the mob or the press, he is wrong. But it is perfectly true that such is not the case at present, and this was proved in the case of the surrender of Messrs. Mason and Slidell. However blatant the crowd, however blustering the press of the Northern States, President Lincoln and his Cabinet acted in a manner perfectly regardless of any clamour which their policy might excite. Whether the President be a despot and the members of the Administration

acquiescent followers, or whether the Cabinet is a united and powerful oligarchy, we know not; but it is clear that they can sometimes act with the promptitude, energy, unity, and secrecy of despotic power. This is one of the necessities of such an abnormal condition as that of civil war, and at present the mob and the press have little to do with the Government of the Federal States. But such was not the case before, and Mr. Bright mistakes an exceptional crisis in its annals as the general course of progress in America. Lord Palmerston, with a vast majority with him, found it easy work to sail before the wind, and his reply was felicitous and in some points severe.

Mr. Cox, M.P. for Finsbury, on Tuesday evening fulfilled his promise of asking the Prime Minister whether the Government would propose any extension of the suffrage during this Session? The laughter with which Mr. Cox was received, and with which Lord Palmerston's more than Spartan brevity of reply was applauded, does no credit to the honourable members who indulge in these unseemly cachinations. The Reform Bill so long promised, so frequently failing and abortive, would seem to be a proof that the governing classes cannot or will not legislate until there is a strong and dangerous pressure from without. This is not calculated to raise them in the estimation of the people.

A few published letters of the late Count Cavour have occasioned some little stir here, and induced Lord Clarendon to make a very careful and explicit statement in the House of Lords. Lord Clarendon most distinctly denies having ever held out any hope to Cavour that England would assail Austria for the purpose of aiding Italy in its struggles for independence. Cavour doubtlessly misunderstood Lord Clarendon, and his Lordship as certainly misapprehended, or failed to appreciate, the great Italian statesman. Cavour's cherished schemes seemed the wild dream of a political fanatic to the tranquil and not sanguine English noble. They have, however, within the space of a very few years been fulfilled, with the sole exceptions of Venetia and the difficulty about the Papacy, the latter of which gradually approaches a solution.

The French Senate has commenced the debate on the



THE FALL OF HOUSES AT HACKNEY.

Address. The policy of the Emperor with regard to the Roman question is generally approved in France, and the Address expresses a regret that the efforts of his Majesty should have been met by too much impetuosity on the one hand and too much resistance and immovability on the other.

Discussions have taken place in the Prussian Chamber of Deputies on the motion relating to Electoral Hesse. It was suggested by M. de Twisten that the Government should, if necessary, adopt an armed interference. Count de Bernstorff declared that all modifications of the Hessian Constitution of 1831 must be effected constitutionally and by the co-operation of the Chambers.

THE FATAL ACCIDENT AT HACKNEY.

WE last week published the particulars of a deplorable accident which occurred at Hackney, by which the lives of three persons were lost, and severe injuries inflicted upon others. We have nothing of importance to add as to the circumstances attending the fatal occurrence; the sufferers are all recovering, though slowly, with the exception of one man, in whose case the medical men apprehend that brain fever may supervene. An inquest has been held, in the course of which evidence detailing the circumstances under which the accident happened was given, but which does not present any feature of novelty. On Wednesday, the last day of the investigation, the attention of the Coroner and jury was directed more especially to the causes of the accident, and several architects and surveyors were examined. Mr. John Topham, a civil engineer, said that he had examined the building on Thursday morning week. The bricks in the wall were very inferior. The mortar was soft and loamy, which would render it necessary to have a larger quantity of lime. The sand should have been sharp and well screened. The pier would have to carry about forty or fifty tons of material, and it was not of sufficient strength to carry that weight. He believed that the accident was caused through the defects of the material used. Mr. Tilott, surveyor, was then examined, and produced a piece of brick which he had taken out of the party wall of one of the houses which had fallen. He considered it a fair specimen of the brickwork of the houses where the accident occurred. He believed that the houses had fallen through the number of men employed upon them and the vibration of the building. He was of opinion that the upper portion of the houses gave way first, and the brickwork falling upon that portion of the bressummer over the piers, the whole came down from the immense pressure upon that portion of the structure. He thought that the brickwork and other material remaining was of a fair quality. It was the district surveyor's duty to see the piers put up. They were quite sufficient to carry such superstructures. He should not think of putting up story posts to such small buildings, and he should not use cement, but mortar, at the bottom of the piers. Other evidence having been given, Mr. Ashpitel, the architect who had been selected by the Coroner to inspect the premises, gave an opinion that many causes had concurred to the accident. Some of these had been beyond the control of the builder. Such were the vibration caused by the railway, the action of the frost, and the wet weather; but, on the other hand, the incompleteness of the roof, the weakness of the pier, and the insufficiency of the ties were, according to his judgment, in part the cause of what had happened. After an absence of an hour the jury returned the following special verdict:—"We find that the deaths of Jacob Ketteridge, John Fuller, and Alfred William Rathbone were caused by mortal injuries received upon their bodies by the falling of the houses Nos. 9 and 10, Amherst-road, Hackney; and we do further find that the cause of such accident was occasioned by the materials used in such buildings being of an inferior quality, by the incompleteness of the roof, by undue haste in their construction, and by the want of a more efficient supervision."

We trust that the expression of opinion in the last clause of the jury's verdict will have due weight in the right quarters, and that more care will in future be taken in the erection of buildings in the metropolis. A subscription has been opened for the relief of the sufferers by this unfortunate occurrence, which we hope will receive a due share of the public benevolence.

Our Engraving shows the appearance presented by the buildings shortly after the accident happened.

GERMAN POLITICS.

THE Prussian Government has addressed a note to Austria and the other German States of the Würzburg Coalition. The following are the principal passages of the document, which is dated the 14th inst.:-

The Prussian Government does not remain behind any of her Confederates in the conscientious fulfilment of her Federal duties, for the defence of interests really German, in serious efforts to render justice to legitimate national aspirations, and make them be adopted by the other Confederate Governments; but it has never taken advantage of those duties faithfully accomplished to attempt to be entitled to take a step such as has just been taken by the Governments who have signed the identical note against Prussia. In the realisation of the ideas of reform indicated at the end of the said note, and which tend to create, "for the whole Confederation," a Constitution with an efficacious executive power, a common legislation and Parliament, and which are not unconnected with the aspirations of a more vast "political consolidation" for non-German territories, as already manifested in the Austrian despatch of the 5th of November, the Prussian Government would see a far greater danger for the existence of the Confederation than in the reforms proposed in the Prussian despatch of the 20th of December.

Nevertheless, the Prussian Government does not intend to lay a protest against a simple statement of views relative to the basis of reform. It thinks that it is wiser to reserve its final judgment until a fixed plan of reform shall have been presented to it which will give it the opportunity of discussing it with the Imperial Government. For the present the Prussian Government considers beyond a doubt the practical impossibility of a reform according to the present general indications, and, these being radically in opposition to its own point of view, it must necessarily declare as impracticable the opening of a conference on reform attempted on such a basis.

The Prussian papers devote long articles to this question, which would appear to be one that in some way or other comes on the tapis periodically, and will probably continue to do so till the rivalry between the two great German Powers is terminated in some way. The *National Zeitung* of Berlin says:-

A suitable reply has been sent to the insolence of Austria and of the Würzburg Governments. Doubtless it is no great thing for a military State to put down a miserable diplomatic demonstration like that which has just been made. That demonstration was so miserable and shameful that, if the Minister for Foreign Affairs had at once sent their passports to all the Envoys whose Governments had part in it, it would have served them right. Prussia is not sunk so low as to allow herself to be led by the nose by MM. Schmerling, Reichenberg, and Co. That fine company has dared to ask Prussia her opinion on the best possible reform for the Federal Constitution. They knew very well what the reply would be, and, after having received it, they deliberated for six weeks, and then issue a protest against views which were given at their own request. The people and all friends of Prussia will approve the Government for having treated this miserable attack with contempt. Let Prussia at once recognise the King of Italy. We owe no respect to Austria; that respect which we have hitherto shown her is put down as weakness and has encouraged these insolent attacks. The Würzburg Governments have fancied that Prussia is weak; she must, therefore, show herself stronger than they imagine. Let her recognise Italy, and then they will say that Prussia is a State with which it is advisable to remain on good terms. If our Government has not sufficient moral strength to do this, they will console themselves for the diplomatic check they have just received. The Berlin note of the 14th of February will not hurt them, as they will remain convinced that Prussia dare not do anything disagreeable to them, and that at the utmost she can only say a few harsh words to them.

Foreign Intelligence.

FRANCE.

THE draught of the Address from the Senate in answer to the Emperor's Speech has been published. The most interesting portion is the paragraph referring to Italy, which may decidedly be pronounced satisfactory when we consider the body from which it emanates. The Address approves of the policy of the Emperor with regard to the Roman question, and expresses regret that the efforts of his Majesty should have been met by too much impetuosity on the one hand and "resistance and immovability on the other." These latter phrases, of course, refer to the Papal Government. In the name of wisdom, proceeds the Address, it must be proclaimed to the one side that the greatest works must have for their foundation calmness and moderation, and to the other that "the justest causes go astray through extreme refusals, incompatible with the rational conduct of human affairs." In this last clause, again, the allusion to the course of obstinate resistance adopted by the Papal Government is unmistakable. The insertion of these words in the draught Address is indicative of a very marked change in the feeling of the Upper House since this time last year. The phrases will, of course, be opposed and denounced by some of the Ultramontane Senators; but the mere insertion of them last year in the draught would have been simply impossible. They will probably be adopted now by the majority of the Chamber. For the insertion of this clause the credit is understood to be due to the perseverance of Prince Napoleon.

The Council of State has taken under consideration a bill for establishing a supplementary tax of 10f. per 100 kilogrammes upon all denominations of sugar delivered for consumption. The same bill fixes at 20f. per 100 kilogrammes the consumption tax upon salt.

SPAIN.

Senor Don Xavier de Isturitz, Spanish Ambassador to England, has been nominated President of the Council of State, and will be succeeded in the embassy at London by Senor Gonzales. It is considered probable that General Serrano will be replaced in the captain-generalship of Cuba by General Dulce.

PORTUGAL.

Many circumstances have lately testified to the progress that Liberal opinions are making in Portugal. The reactionary and repressive party, however, is far from extinguished, and on Monday a proposition was made in the Upper House to re-establish the censorship of books and other publications. The retrogressive measure was hotly contested, and was rejected by a majority of 36 against 32 votes.

ITALY.

Italian journals announce that, notwithstanding the remonstrances of the Government, popular demonstrations against the temporal power of the Papacy continue to be made in the towns of Italy and Sicily. Ferrara, Palermo, and other places have most recently added their manifestations to the many which preceded them. A communication from Turin states that both the French and English Ministers have remonstrated with the Government as to these demonstrations—the latter confining himself to warning Baron Ricasoli and his colleagues against allowing a popular movement to get the control, as it were, of the ruling power; and the former sharply condemning the demonstrations, which he construed into an attempt to coerce the French Government. It is also asserted that the demonstrations had been the occasion of a slight difference between King Victor Emmanuel and his Prime Minister. All this, however, may be mere rumour.

In the Chamber of Deputies, on the 18th inst., Baron Ricasoli, in reply to a question from Signor Avezzana, declared that the Government had no intention of sending ships to reinforce the Mexican expedition, but merely believed that it would be advisable to send a few frigates to the colonies to protect Italian subjects.

Garibaldi has written a letter warmly approving of the subscriptions now being collected for the relief of the workmen who have been thrown out of employment at Lyons.

The National Committee at Rome have issued an address to the Roman people urging them to discretion. The nation, it says, ought to prepare for events, showing to Europe a firm desire to separate the temporal from the spiritual, but also respect towards the Pontiff and the ministers of religion. Sincere Catholics ought to be convinced that the safety of the Pope will not be compromised by the departure of the French troops. The Romans, however, will prove on all suitable occasions, by pacific manifestations, that they are firmly resolved to make part of the kingdom of Italy under the sceptre of Victor Emmanuel.

AUSTRIA.

It is said that the Austrian Government intends effecting a revision of the Concordat, and that the Pope had most readily expressed his acquiescence in the proposal. It is added that negotiations on the subject will probably be commenced shortly.

Count Palffy had proclaimed the district of Arad, in Hungary, under martial law, in consequence of the prevalence of the crimes of murder, robbery, and violence, all which offences will in future be tried before military tribunals.

The principal theme of discussion in Vienna is the difference between Prussia and the coalition of Würzburg, some details regarding which will be found in another place.

PRUSSIA.

It is asserted that the Prussian Government is about to formally recognise the kingdom of Italy, and it is added that this resolution has been induced by the pending differences between the Cabinets of Berlin and Vienna. The subject was brought before the Chambers on the 14th inst., when a vote recommending the recognition of the Italian Kingdom was carried. The Chamber of Deputies, at the conclusion of a two-days' debate on the affairs of Electoral Hesse, adopted a resolution, by a majority of 241 to 58, engaging the Government to favour the re-establishment of the Constitution of 1831, but without committing the executive as to the ways and means of doing so.

ELECTORAL HESSE.

Things are carried on with a high hand in this unfortunate little State, and the Government is in a fair way to outdo even the Hapsburg authorities in Hungary. People have resorted to a refusal to pay taxes, as a last constitutional means of passive resistance against an unconstitutional and oppressive Government; but the latter is not to be outwitted. According to information received from Hanau, orders have been sent to the local authorities to possess themselves, by all means, of the ready money of the people. Should the latter persist in their refusal to pay the taxes and decline to give up the keys to their money-boxes, &c., these are to be opened by force, and the amount claimed taken therefrom. A letter from Cassel of the 14th inst. gives the following account of the measures resorted to to collect the taxes due to the Government:-

Yesterday a division of the pioneer corps stationed here proceeded to Hanau to support the tax collectors in the work of breaking open the money-chests in the houses of those in arrear with their payments; and this morning—the same day on which the question of Electoral Hesse was debated in Berlin—the work of arbitrary power began. According to the *Zeit.*, one of the pioneers was about to break open a cash-box when the owner remarked upon the illegality and unpatriotic nature of the proceedings, and the man replied, with tears in his eyes, that it grieved him much, but he must do his duty. He could not succeed, however, in forcing the padlock, and the tax-collector was obliged to content himself by pawing some golden articles, and to satisfy his demand with the proceeds.

Even in the most conservative circles it is admitted that such measures are illegal and unconstitutional, and that the Government of the land cannot much longer be carried on in such a manner without conjuring up the most desperate complications.

The Government has declined to pay the allowances to the representatives at the Diet who were dismissed on the 8th ult., and a notice to that effect has been served on many of the members stating that this resolution had been come to by the Electoral Prince himself.

POLAND.

The churches of Warsaw were opened with great solemnity on the 13th inst. The new Archbishop officiated in the cathedral, and addressed the congregation, dissuading them from singing the prohibited hymns, and assuring them that if they abstained from further manifestations he could guarantee the Emperor's gracious intentions towards Poland. The Archbishop, however, enjoined the people to pray for the country. He said, "If any power whatever were to prohibit you from praying for your country, I would exhort you not to obey."

Should the present tranquillity of Warsaw remain undisturbed, it is said that the Emperor Alexander II. will pay a visit to that city in the ensuing spring.

The official *Dziennik* of Warsaw publishes the names of 143 persons condemned to various punishments for the part they took in the disturbances which occurred from the commencement of the state of siege to the 27th of January.

TURKEY.

The Turkish Government is in negotiation for a foreign loan, for which, according to the *Levant Herald*, the Credit Mobilier and two London firms have offered to become contractors.

A treaty of commerce between Russia and Turkey has been signed. A corps of 2000 gendarmes, under the command of Orcilly Pacha, will be organised to form the police in Syria.

A rumour is current in Constantinople that the Porte intends to form a central representative council for the provinces, composed half of Christians and half of Mussulmans.

The Servian Government, in reply to the protest of the Porte, declares that Servia has remained within the limits of the autonomy the country has acquired, without overstepping recognised rights.

THE HERZEGOVINA.

The position taken up by the Turkish troops at Politza having totally intercepted the communications of the Nahias of Schiouma and Popova with the Nahia of Zubzi in such a manner that no safety remained to the former but in submission, the principal persons of Schiouma and of Popova arrived at Mostar on the 16th to make submission in the name of all the inhabitants. A full amnesty has been accorded by the Serdar-Ekrem Omer Pacha. Every gaitan of the district will nominate a kues, and every village a monkdar, who will regulate and represent at Trebigne the interests of their fellow-citizens. It appears certain that the province of Zubzi will be attacked in a few days, unless it makes immediate submission.

GREECE.

A military revolt took place on the 13th at Nauplia. The town and fortress were in the power of the insurgents. Troops had been dispatched thither under the command of General Hahn.

MOROCCO.

According to the terms of the treaty of peace signed between Spain and the Emperor of Morocco, the latter engaged to give up to the Spaniards a certain portion of territory round the fortress of Melilla. A report is now current that the Guelayas, the possessors of that land, absolutely refused to comply with the Emperor's orders. As, up to the present time, the representations of the Government Envoys have been disregarded, the Emperor, it is believed, is about to have recourse to force to oblige the Guelayas to consent to the execution of the treaty. Already the son of Si-Abd-el-Djebbar, cousin of Mouley-Abd-es-Salam, Chief of the order of the Mouley Taieb, has arrived at Oudjda. He is the bearer of letters from the Emperor, addressed to the different tribes dependent on the Oudjda, ordering them to hold themselves at the disposal of Mouley-el-Abbas. The Guelayas, on their side, have appealed to their allies of the Riff, and prepare for resistance.

CHINA.

According to accounts from China, our relations with the Government at Peking remained in a satisfactory state. The insurrection in Shanghai and in the central provinces was progressing. The insurgents had informed the English Consul at Hangchow that they intend attacking that city, and afterwards Shanghai. They promised to behave with moderation; but, in case of resistance, threatened the total destruction of both cities.

AUSTRALASIA.

From Melbourne we learn that the new Ministers having all successfully undergone their re-election, the Parliament assembled for a short Session previous to Christmas, when the O'Shanassy Government appeared to be stronger in force than was expected. The accounts from the various mining districts are mostly good. The anticipations, however, in regard to the Lachlan goldfields in New South Wales have not been realised. The yield is extraordinary, but the extent of ground is limited. It was said that the Chinese are gathering there, and it was anticipated that there would be 10,000 of them. There had been a partial renewal of the rush to Otago with the intention of thoroughly testing the value of the gold "diggings" in that quarter.

From New Zealand the accounts continue to be pacific. Sir George Grey was applying himself to the task of settling the native difficulty with that statesmanlike vigour and honesty which he has so often exhibited with results satisfactory alike to his own reputation and to the interests of civilisation. His scheme involves the carrying out of the principle of native self-government and the investing of "the Runanga," or native council, with legislative powers.

GARIBALDI.—The great Italian patriot has recently authorised a public disavowal, in his name, of any share in the measures which are being taken for the secret enrolment of volunteers in Italy. These enrolments have been for some time going on, and their object is believed to be an attempt either upon Roman or Austrian territory. The organisers of this insensate scheme borrowed the name of Garibaldi to recommend it. Garibaldi's real friends were not deceived; but it is nevertheless satisfactory that the Italian chieftain has distinctly repudiated the scheme. The General is represented as enjoying perfect health, and to be entirely given to agriculture in his island home in Caprera. Thirty-four peasants have been sent over to him, who are engaged in ploughing a large tract of land along the coast; and, if this continues, the island will soon be completely transformed. The General constantly receives addresses and presents from his friends. He passes his evenings in reading the journals.

TRAVELLING AND HOTELS IN AMERICA.—The republican simplicity of the railway-car certainly places rich and poor on a dead level of uncomfortable-ness, and the introduction of sleeping-cars, by which those who can afford to pay for it have accommodations not afforded to people who cannot do so, destroys the theory on which the Americans vindicate their doctrine of the greatest unhappiness of the greatest number of travellers. In trains where no sleeping-cars are provided, or where all are full, the fatigue of travelling bolt upright, with no support for the head, can only be imagined by those who have gone in a third-class Parliamentary train from London to Aberdeen. And then to be bidden at Albany—to cross the frozen Hudson in a sleigh, and to stand in mild submission and teeth-chattering cold at the bar or office of the Delaware House, trying to catch the eye of the callous clerk, who regards the crowd with imperial indifference over the handle of his deeply-fixed toothpick, and to melt him by a smile into the concession of a bedroom! What tyrants they all are! What poor slaves are the American people! They may abjure Kings and Princes, but they are ruled by hotelkeepers and waiters. With money in my purse, I could get neither bite nor sup in all the capital of the Empire State, and it was only by the research of a companion who procured a place to lie upon. The table-d'hôte system of America strikes a deadly blow at self-respect, independence, and freedom of opinion. You are tyrannised over so much that at the very door of the saloon you are seized on by a waiter and placed in a particular chair, and if you don't eat then you must be content to renounce hungry till the next meal arrives.—*Times' Special Correspondent.*

AMERICAN AFFAIRS.

GENERAL NEWS.

There is little news of interest from America. The probability of European intervention—especially by England and France—was being much discussed, and the general opinion was that such a step was inevitable ere long unless decided successes were obtained over the Confederates. Active military measures were urged in the hope of anticipating foreign interference by the extinction of the rebellion; but military movements of sufficient magnitude were for the time impossible. Owing to the immense fall of snow, the roads in Virginia have become completely blocked up, and the movement of the army of the Potomac was again delayed. The gun boat expedition on the Mississippi was also retarded, owing to the want of men for that service. The Burnside expedition at Pamlico Sound was about to start for its destination; most of the vessels had gone in the direction of Roanoke Island. The New York papers make extracts from the Southern journals to show that great distress and much privation exist among the soldiers and their families. The *Savannah Republican* publishes a letter from Bainbridge, dated Jan. 27, containing the report of a fight at James Island, near Apalachicola, in which sixty Union troops were killed and the Southerners gained a great victory.

Several Federal gun-boats, under the command of Commodore Foote, attacked Fort Henry, on Tennessee River, on the 6th instant. After an hour and a quarter's severe firing from the gun-boats, Fort Henry, with the Confederate General and sixty prisoners, surrendered unconditionally. The fort contained twenty guns.

President Lincoln had ordered the removal of privateersmen to Fort Lafayette. Privateersmen will in future be treated as prisoners of war.

Great suspense continued concerning the inaction and delay in Congress on the Legal Tender Treasury Note Bill. Long speeches continued to be made for and against it. The Secretary of the Treasury fully endorses the legal tender clause, and had written twice to the Chairman of the Committee of Ways and Means strongly urging the absolute necessity for the immediate passing of the bill, and added that the Treasury was nearly empty. A Washington despatch says:—"By the 10th of February there will not be a dollar in the Treasury, and the Government must suspend payments unless the Treasury Note Bill be passed. A vote could be had on the bill any day but for the clause making the notes a legal tender." The House of Representatives had passed the bill with the legal-tender clause by a large majority. The New York Chamber of Commerce had passed a resolution to the effect that no system of taxation bringing less than 150,000,000 dols. annually is adequate to meet the exigencies of the Federal Government.

In Congress Mr. Chandler has offered a resolution that the Committee on Commerce should inquire into the expediency of notifying England that the Canadian Reciprocity Treaty is not reciprocal, and that it will be terminated at the earliest possible moment. An Associated Press despatch announces that the Committee on Commerce is averse to the abrogation of the reciprocity treaty, but advocates the enlargement of its commercial connections, with a view to render reciprocity more certain and substantial. The report of the committee discusses the extent, population, position, and resources of the British North American provinces, together with the question of the right of the United States to just reciprocity, and fiscal reasons for an American or continental system. The value of Canadian productions (says the report) has increased 20 per cent by this treaty. America taxes Canadian productions 25,000 dols. per annum; Canada taxes American productions 1,000,000 dols., and has also an unfair system of discrimination against America.

A statement had been put forward that General Scott was going to Mexico on a mission from his Government; but the general impression was that he was proceeding to Key West for the benefit of his health.

It was rumoured in Washington that the Swedish Minister had undertaken to demonstrate to the Federal Government that the blockade is inefficient. Mr. Seward was said to be preparing a reply.

The leading men of Georgia have issued an address to the people of that State saying that foreign aid is remote, and that the means to resist the intention and resources of the North are unflinching courage and self-sacrifice. The address adds that every city and village whence the people might be compelled to depart should be burnt.

THE PASSAGE OF BRITISH TROOPS THROUGH MAINE.

In reply to inquiries from the Legislature of the State of Maine, Mr. Seward has stated that he granted permission for the passage of British troops across Maine to save them suffering from a northerly Canadian journey.

Mr. Seward says that no foreign Power inimical to England would complain of the Federal Government extending this comity to England, and that any danger from the permission could only come from direct hostility on the part of England towards the Federal Government.

"I will not affect ignorance," continues Mr. Seward, "that popular aspirations have recently appeared in Canada and England which seemed to indicate a growing alienation of sentiment among portions of the British people, but the English Government has during this time held towards the Federal Government its customary language of respect and friendship. The Federal Government, practising entire frankness, yields its full faith to these assurances of the British Government. The policy of the Federal Government has been to fortify its territories in order to resist foreign and domestic enemies, if such enemies must come; but it has been careful to secure even greater strength by showing itself consistent in all things, scrupulously just, and, if possible, magnanimous towards other nations."

Mr. Seward concludes by saying that, should the State of Maine be aggrieved at the instructions given, they will be modified.

THE BATTLE OF MANASSAS.

General Beauregard's official report on the battle of Manassas has been published. According to this report the loss of the Confederates was 1800 killed and wounded. The effective force of the Confederate army of the Potomac was 21,000 men and 29 guns. The report concluded as follows:—

In conclusion, it is proper, and doubtless expected, that through this report my countrymen should be made acquainted with some of the sufficient causes that prevented the advance of our forces and prolonged vigorous pursuit of the enemy to and beyond the Potomac. The War Department has been fully advised long since of all those causes, some of which only are proper to be here communicated. An army which had fought like ours on that day against uncommon odds, under a July sun, most of the time without water and without food, except a hastily-snatched meal at dawn, was not in a condition for the toll of an eager and effective pursuit of an enemy immediately after the battle.

On the following day an unusually heavy and unintermitting fall of rain intervened to obstruct our advance. Added to this, the want of a sufficient cavalry force made an effective pursuit a military impossibility.

THE MEXICAN INTERVENTION.

The following letter from Vera Cruz, dated Jan. 9, gives some details of the state of matters there on the arrival of the British contingent, and shows that the difficulties and complications which we had anticipated as likely to arise had already begun to manifest themselves. We fear that even more serious entanglements than jealousies about the quartering of troops and similar matters will by and by come of this Mexican business, though we shall be glad if the event proves us to have been mistaken:—

The squadron under Commodore Dunlop arrived here with the Royal Marine force of 700 men, representing the English contingent in the affair, on the 6th of January, and two days afterwards the French squadron, under Admiral Jurien de la Gravière, arrived with 2500 men. We found on our arrival that the Spaniards, to the number of 6000 men, had forestalled us, and, after giving the people of Vera Cruz thirty-six hours' notice to vacate the place, had disembarked, and established a military government in the

town. The first step of the Spanish General was to insist on being named President of the Town Council, which the Town Council resisted, and retired from the place, together with about 7000 Mexican inhabitants. Before leaving they dismantled Fort San Juan d'Ulloa, leaving only about eight guns, and withdrew all the horses and stock from the place, and have proceeded with the guns to occupy the passes on the road to Mexico. They have also driven off all supplies from the neighbourhood, and inflict a penalty on any one found supplying the place, so that there is now, so to speak, no market. The step taken by the Spaniards of disembarking before the arrival of the other forces is now owned by themselves to have been a false one. The whole country has been roused, and great opposition is expected on the march to Mexico.

Yesterday, the 8th, General Prim arrived, and, seeing how matters stood, made a speech to try and disarm the suspicions of the people by saying he was come on a peaceful mission to establish order, but with no hostile intentions, &c. He is said, at the same time, to have written to the Captain-General at Havannah for strong reinforcements, as all appear to agree that the present force is inadequate, seeing the new turn affairs have taken. Admiral Jurien de la Gravière intends accompanying the French force to Mexico.

The English contingent, 700 men, has been sent out without camp equipage of any kind, or guns for the artillery, although the commanding officer solicited them repeatedly before leaving England. The refusal was with a view to their not being employed actively and not taking any part in the forward movement. Their enviable position appears to be to occupy the most pestilential place in the world without any hope of participating in the operations in the field, and, at the same time, to hear remarks of no very flattering character on the degrading position in which they are placed—the scavengers, as they are termed by the other two Powers. This has produced great dissatisfaction among them.

The English have not yet landed, as the Spaniards, who command in the town, have only offered them the Convent of San Domingo for occupation, which, on inspection, was found to contain coffins with human remains in a state of decomposition; and adjoining the convent is a yard of a loathsome character, which baffles description. In one corner is a deposit of human excrement about five yards square and several feet thick, perfectly open and uncovered, upon which a cloud of flies has settled, which, on approaching the horrible compost, rise in such a dense mass that you can scarce see through them. It has been wisely determined by the Commodore not to land the force until a more suitable place is provided, as a fortnight in such a charnel-house would lay them all up with dysentery. The day after tomorrow a reconnaissance is to be made in the direction of the railway-station, fifteen miles on the road to Jalapa. The object of this move is to secure the railway from being broken up and find a place to encamp the Spanish troops. Several conferences have already taken place between the Admirals and the Generals and Sir Charles Wyke, who is also here from Mexico. Altogether this expedition is considered here to have been too hastily formed, without having had proper information as to the turn things might take. The Mexicans are in possession of the country a short distance outside the town, where it would be dangerous to go without proper escort. Their new General is a man who has not hitherto mixed himself up in public affairs, living quietly on his property; but on the landing of the Spaniards he immediately placed himself at the head of the Mexicans.

Intelligence from Western Mexico represents that there is a general termination of international dissension among the people and a union of all to resist foreign invasion.

It is reported from San Francisco that a courier had arrived at Acapulco previous to Jan. 26 with intelligence of the defeat of the Spanish army in a severe battle, lasting five hours, at National Bridge, near Vera Cruz.

COUNT CAVOUR AND THE PARIS CONFERENCE OF 1856.

THE following are extracts from the letters of Count Cavour, recently published at Turin, and referred to by Lord Clarendon in the House of Peers on Monday night. These letters were private, and are not entitled to any official weight, but, coming from such a man at such a time, they are not without importance.

On the 9th of April, 1856, Cavour gave the following account of the sitting of the Congress on the previous day:—

Walewski was very explicit with respect to Naples. He spoke of it with words of severe censure. He went too far, perhaps, as he prevented the Russians joining him in his proposals. Clarendon showed great energy, both with respect to the Pope and the King of Naples. He described the former as the very worst Government that ever was, and qualified the latter in words which Massari might have spoken.

I think that, in his conviction of the impossibility of arriving at any practical result, his Lordship deemed it expedient to resort to complimentary language. We shall have another exciting sitting when we shall come to the approval of the protocol.

Cavour, in a letter a day or two afterwards, recounts a conversation he had had with Lord Clarendon, in which the latter is represented as using words to the effect that Italy might reckon on the support of England in the event of a war with Austria. Cavour then goes on to say:—

You may judge of the importance of words spoken by a Minister who has the reputation of a very reserved and prudent man. England, regretting this peace, would be glad to see the opportunity of a new war, a war so popular as that the object of which should be the deliverance of Italy. Why should we not, then, take advantage of this disposition and attempt a supreme effort to accomplish the destinies of the House of Savoy and our country! This, however, is a question of life and death, and we must, therefore, proceed with great caution. It is for this that I intend going to London to consult Lord Palmerston and the other men at the head of the Government. If they share Clarendon's views, we must make secret preparations, contract the loan for 30,000,000*fr.*, and, upon Delia Marmora's return, offer to Austria an ultimatum which it will be impossible for her to accept, and open hostilities.

The Emperor cannot be against this war. In his heart of hearts he wishes it. If he sees England decided to enter the lists he will certainly aid us. Moreover, I shall hold to the Emperor the same language I did to Lord Clarendon. The last interviews I had with him and his Ministers were of a nature to pave the way for a warlike declaration. The only obstacle I foresee is the Pope. What should we do with him in the event of an Italian war!

I hope, after reading this, you will not deem me affected with brain fever and fallen into a state of mental alienation. Quite the contrary. I am in a perfect state of intellectual health; never was cooler and more collected in my life. I have acquired a great reputation here for moderation. Clarendon said so to me frequently. Prince Napoleon charges me with lack of energy, and even Walewski praises my good behaviour. But I really believe we may dare with great likelihood of success.

You may well be sure I shall contract no obligation, either proximate or remote. I shall collect facts, and on my return the King and my colleagues will decide as to what is to be done.

To-day we hold again no conference. The procès verbal of the stormy sitting of Tuesday is not ready. Lord Clarendon is quite prepared to set to again with Buol; but the latter may avoid the strife by making no remarks on the protocol. Meanwhile Clarendon has sent Lord Cowley to Hubner to tell him that all England would be indignant when hearing the words uttered by the Austrian Minister.

Two days later he wrote:—

Yesterday I was at dinner at Prince Napoleon's with Earl Clarendon. I had a long conversation with these two personages. Both told me that they had on the previous day discoursed at full length with the Emperor about the affairs of Italy, and had declared to him that the conduct of Austria placed Piedmont in so difficult a position that it had become a necessity to help this latter to get out of it. Lord Clarendon said freely that Piedmont might be brought to break war to Austria, when it would have been necessary to take part with the former. The Emperor seemed to be greatly struck with their remarks, was thoughtful for some time, then expressed a wish to confer with me. I hope to be able to convince him of the impossibility of remaining in the position in which we are placed by the obstinate and aggravating behaviour of Austria. I am aware of the sympathy he has for Italy and for us, and for the necessity of action which presses upon him, so that I think he will give proofs of the resolution and firmness which so greatly characterise him. If the English Government share Lord Clarendon's views, the help of England will not fail us. This Minister met Buol at the Emperor's, and said to him, "You throw down your gauntlet to liberated Europe; think that she may pick it up, and that there are Powers which, although they have signed a peace, are also ready and willing to re-open war." Talking with him as to the means of acting morally and even materially upon Austria, I said to him, "Send your troops upon men-of-war to Spezia and leave your fleet there." "An excellent idea," he answered immediately. Prince Napoleon does his best for us. He openly evinces his antipathy to Austria.

THE NAVY ESTIMATES.—The Navy Estimates for the ensuing year show a decrease of upwards of £800,000 on the votes of last year, including in last year's estimate the supplementary vote taken at the end of the Session of a quarter of a million for iron ships. It is remarkable, as showing the high price of provisions for the current year, that, while there is a decrease of £44,000 in the vote for the wages of seamen and marines, there is an increase of nearly £34,000 for their provisions.

IRELAND.

THE CATHOLIC UNIVERSITY.—The board of the Catholic University which consists of the Archbishops and Bishops in Ireland, have made arrangements for placing at the disposal of the Rector the sum of £810 per annum, or £30 from each diocese, for exhibitions to "assist" deserving students in the prosecution of their studies. These exhibitions will be divided between the four provinces, and will be open for public competition to youths from every part of Ireland. Arrangements have also been completed for the purchase of thirty acres of land, part of the Blessington estate, adjacent to Dublin on the north side, and in a beautiful and healthy locality, for the erection of the University. It is intended to raise a splendid and commodious structure.

DISTRESS IN THE WESTERN ISLANDS.—Last week Mr. Brodie, Poor-law Inspector, went to inspect the state of distress in Arran, Boffin, and the other islands on the west coast of Ireland. The Government steamer Geyser was placed at Mr. Brodie's disposal for the purpose of making the tour. He has gone at the instance of the Poor-law Commissioners, who have authorised him to grant relief wherever he finds it necessary.

SCOTLAND.

HEADS, HATS, AND EDUCATION.—At the annual meeting of the Society for the Education of Imbecile Children, held in Edinburgh, the Rev. Dr. Guthrie said that imbecility was not a very remarkable feature of the Scotch people. "The Scotch were generally supposed to be long-headed and strong-headed, of which haters could furnish them with remarkable evidence, in so far as everybody connected with the hat trade could tell them that they had to make larger hats for the people of Scotland than for those of England or any other place. And it was a very encouraging thing connected with the hat trade and this institution to find that, by cultivation, the brain might be very largely increased; for it was a notorious fact that the Scotch needed larger hats than the English—which he attributed to the fact that the Scotch had more education than the English."

PROLIFIC MOTHERS.—Some curious facts came out in preparing the Glasgow table for the Scottish Registrar-General's report. One mother who was only eighteen had four children; one who was twenty-two had seven children; and of two who were only thirty-four, one had thirteen and the other fourteen children; and, on the other hand, two women became mothers as late in life as fifty-one, four at fifty-two, and one mother was registered as having given birth to a child in the fifty-seventh year of her age.

DESPERATE STRUGGLE AND ESCAPE OF A PRISONER.—The passengers by the midnight express from King's-cross to the north were greatly alarmed on their arrival at Darlington on Monday morning at 3.53. The sides of a first-class carriage betokened a desperate conflict, being splashed with blood, and a gentleman, Mr. Bell, who emerged from one of the compartments, explained that he was the chief of the Fifehire constabulary, and that a prisoner whom he was taking under escort to Cupar had, after a severe and protracted struggle, escaped by throwing himself headlong out of the carriage window. His name was Samuel Robinson, formerly conductor and proprietor of the *Fifehire Journal*. Some time during last month he absconded from Cupar, being accused of forgery, and on Saturday last he was arrested in London, and handed over on Sunday to Mr. Bell, who came up from Fife to take him in charge. Mr. Bell left King's-cross on the same day by the 9.15 p.m. train. He directed the guard to lock the compartment in which he and his prisoner were seated; and, as an additional security, made use of handcuffs, which linked the two together in the ordinary way. All proceeded quietly until after leaving York, when by some means the prisoner contrived to free himself from the shackle and threw himself backwards through the window. Chief constable Bell partially frustrated his object and endeavoured to drag him back into the carriage; but the man struggled with him for a full half-hour, and both bled profusely from their heads and hands continually coming in contact with the frame of the window. Mr. Bell's hold, in the end, from sheer exhaustion, gave way, and his prisoner fell head foremost down by the side of the train. No trace of him was discovered until the latter part of the day, when intelligence was brought to Darlington that a man without a hat, and terribly cut and disfigured about the head and face, had been seen making his way, it was thought, to the moors. Immediate pursuit was made. He was tracked to Osmotherley, where he had washed and refreshed himself at a cottage on the roadside, and where he was subsequently apprehended, and has been conveyed to Fife in charge of Mr. Bell.

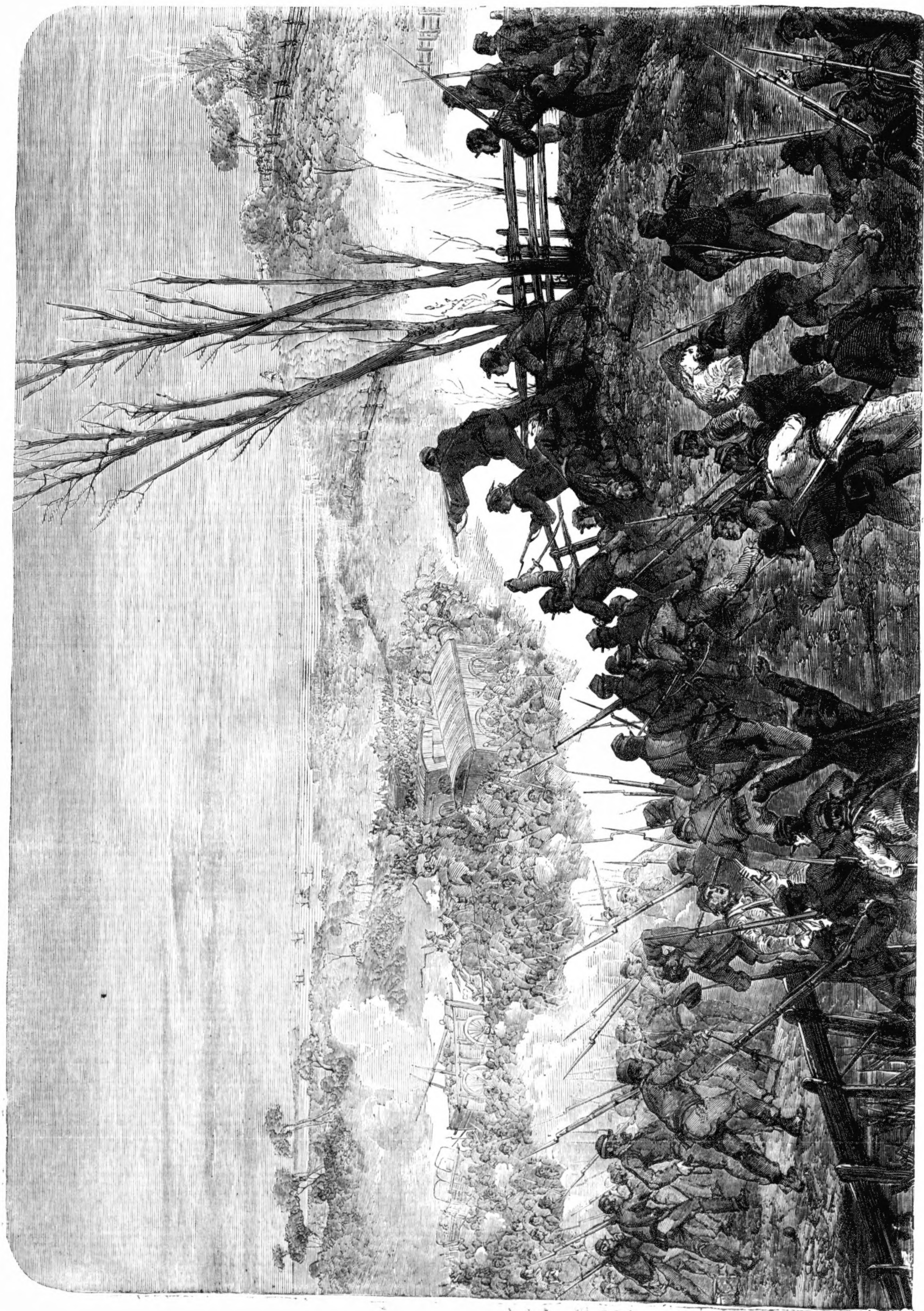
THE PROVINCES.

"SLIGHTED LOVE IS HARD TO BEAR."—A young fellow, of respectable appearance, named John Habbershaw, and who resides in Skinner-lane, Leeds, attempted self-destruction. He had been paying his addresses to Miss Caroline Deighton, No. 12, Tulip-street, but they had not recently been well received. A police-constable said that at a little before ten o'clock on Wednesday night week Habbershaw came up to him in a very agitated state, took hold of his arm, and said in faint and broken tones, "I am dying—I have been taking poison. I have swallowed a shilling's-worth of ludanum, and I wish you to find me a place where I can lay myself down to die." Pitts, another officer, stated that he went to the residence of Caroline Deighton, after Habbershaw had been locked up, and obtained from her a small oblong memorandum-book which had been sent to her by the prisoner before he swallowed the poison. It contained the following letter:—"Dear Carry,—This is the last time you will see me. You are the cause of my troubles; but I forgive you, and next time we meet I hope it will be in heaven. Had you have taken my advice we should have both been happy, but now it is too late. You need not inquire about me, for no one will know my fate. Dear Carry, you must redeem that ring, and wear it for my sake. I hope you will grant me this request; it is the last. Farewell! You may find others who may love you dear, but not love like mine.—I remain, a second George Barnwell, J. H. To Caroline Deighton, Tulip-street, No. 12." The overdose of the poison appeared partly to have worked its natural effect before Habbershaw accosted the policeman, for he must have relieved his stomach of the greater portion of the ludanum when taken into custody. Under the tender care of the policeman and the medical man to the force he was soon out of danger. The magistrates thought the lad required the protection of a parent, and they accordingly sent for his mother, to whom he was consigned in the course of the afternoon.

ANOTHER COLLIERY ACCIDENT AND LOSS OF SIXTEEN LIVES.—On Tuesday morning a week the waters in the disused Hendre mines, near Mold, Flintshire, broke into the adjoining Bryn Gwilog leadmines and drowned sixteen miners, only one of the whole number in the pit making his escape. The mines are near the high road connecting Mold and Denbigh, and four miles from the former town. The old Hendre mines, which were formerly very productive, had not been worked for some years; and as the country is hilly, and there are many streams in the neighbourhood, these mines have been filled with water for a long time. About two years ago a new company was formed, called the Bryn Gwilog Company, for the purpose of working the same bed of lead ore higher up the mountain than the Hendre mines. On the morning mentioned seventeen men descended the mine, and, after working for some time, they penetrated the wall dividing the aperture, and the men had no chance of escape. Edwin Powell alone got to the shaft, the water being up to his chin, and there he seized a rope which was hanging down from the mouth of the pit. By means of the rope he reached the top, passing several times through torrents of water on his way. When nearly at the top he became quite exhausted, and was only saved by being dragged up by the hair. He states that he fancied he heard some one else climbing up the rope after him; he was the only one, however, that arrived at the top. The water is about 240 feet deep in the mine, so that it will be some time before the bodies can be recovered. Of the deceased, thirteen were married men, and one was a widower with six children.

RUNNING THE BLOCKADE.—Since the withdrawal of her Majesty's prohibition order against the exportation of warlike stores to America several vessels, including a fast screw-steamer (which ran the Charleston blockade some months since with a cargo of cotton), have commenced taking on board at Liverpool immense quantities of guns, ammunition, blankets, &c., for the use of the Confederate Army. Many if not all these vessels are loaded by different parties—one gentleman going in for his share in guns, another in blankets, a third in ammunition, while a fourth or fifth ventures in drugs, saltpetre, &c., and so on until each vessel is loaded. As nothing can be "done" in these vessels at the insurance offices, the whole risk of loss falls on those who venture in the speculation. The following advertisement, which appeared in a Liverpool contemporary the other day, will show how these partnership ventures are arranged:—"Cargo to run the blockade. Wanted, a party to provide a portion of the cargo for a fast-sailing vessel of 300 tons, to run to one of the blockaded ports.—Address, box—, Manchester."

A STRANGE MATRIMONIAL CONTRACT.—Mary Ann Roman was charged at the city Police Court, Manchester, with assaulting her husband. From the statement of the complainant it appeared that the woman was continually getting drunk, and her violence was notorious. At her husband's instigation she signed the following novel contract in December last:—"I, Mary Ann Roman, do agree to leave my husband, Andrew Roman, because he will not let me get drunk every day in the week, and break every bit of furniture in the house. And I do hereby declare that I like my brothers and sisters better than I like my husband and my own children." As she, however, failed to act upon the terms of this agreement, the complainant determined to seek the assistance of the magistrates. The Bench dismissed the case.



FEDERAL TROOPS ATTACKING A CONVOY OF CONFEDERATE STORES.

FEDERAL TROOPS IN SOUTH CAROLINA.

THE Federal troops seem somehow to find time for such amusements as are to be improvised in the camp. On Christmas and New-Year's Days some sort of conviviality was organised, and in many instances grotesque exhibitions of boyish fun were a part of the entertainment; in one case consisting of a masquerading procession, which bore the appearance of a revival of the ancient mumming of the mother country. Notwithstanding the preparations for the attack on Savannah, and the recent engagement in Kentucky, when so large a quantity of the Confederate baggage fell into the hands of the Federal Army, the soldiers of the North are not without ample leisure for entertainment, and this is afforded them by the "nigger" slaves, who, having taken refuge in their camp, are expected to furnish amusement to their hosts and protectors.

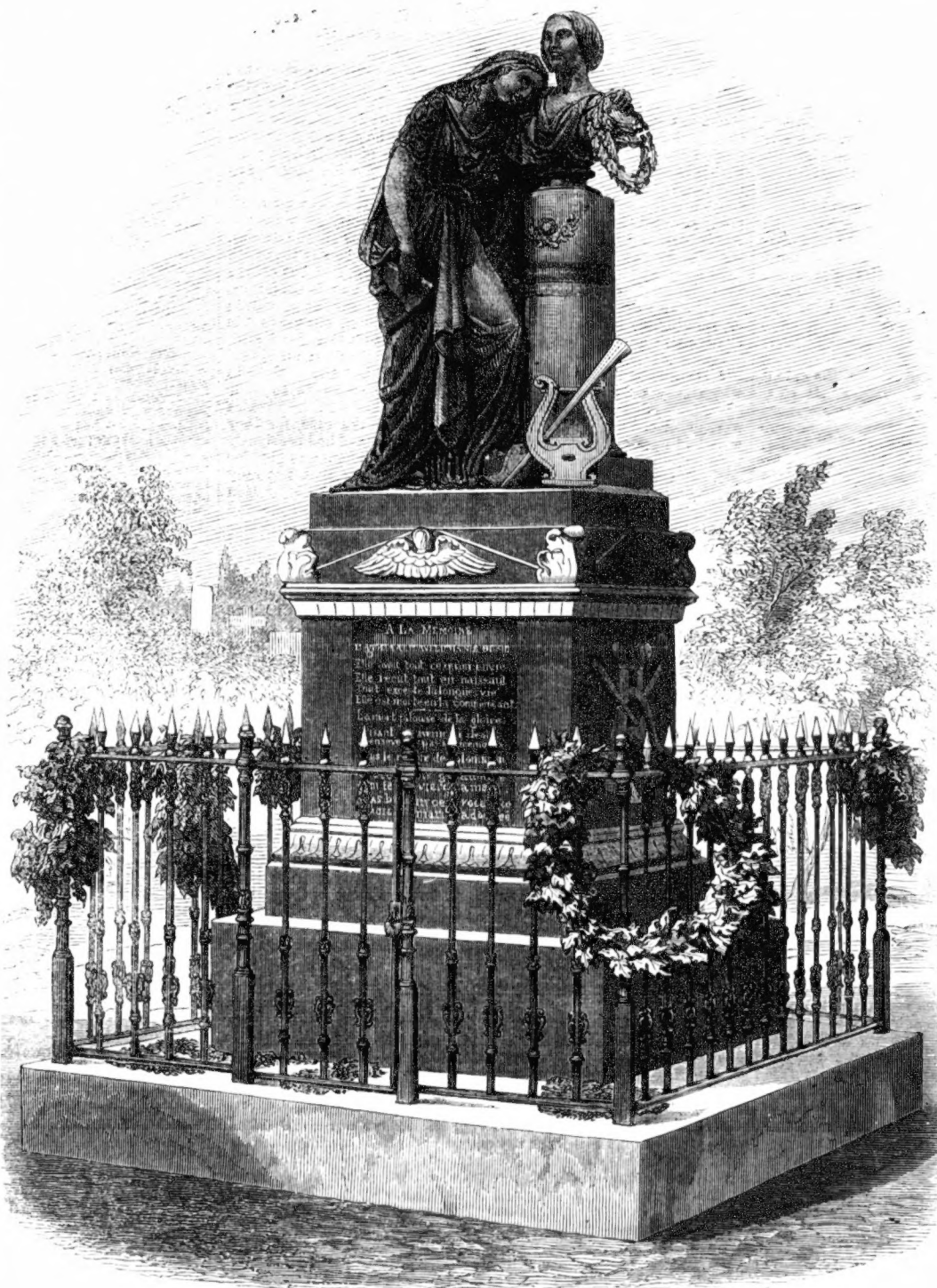
To those who have had no experience in the manners of the genuine negro of the Slave States, the dancing and singing of the "happy" children of the great "institution" may be mistaken for exhibitions of exuberant cheerfulness and thoughtless hilarity; but it is scarcely so in reality. Amidst much that is broadly farcical and marvellously grotesque, there is, after all, a plaintive undertone, which sounds like a wailing accompaniment to a mirth not quite hearty, because inevitably overborne by influences which reduce the real value of life.

There are many graceful dance and pathetic songs in vogue amongst the negroes which are far from indicating the thoughtless goodhumour which it has been contended makes the slave a happy recipient of the bounty of his owner. Something touchingly sorrowful breathes from those strange, wild airs; and even in the mad extravagance of the medley, or amidst the din of loud laughter and apparently rollicking fun, there ever seems to lurk the consciousness that to seem contented and brisk is part of their expected servitude, if not their best policy.

It may be doubted whether amongst themselves the songs so well known to us as "nigger melodies"—that is to say, the nonsense verses and jovial tunes—find much place; but the more pathetic ballads are frequently heard; and the dances, instead of being merely grotesque antics, are not without a certain grace, which would be, perhaps, out of place in the category of their accomplishments as commonly accepted.

The more laughable portions of those performances so long attributed to the slaves in their ordinary daily life are for the most part inventions of "delineators," who must introduce a comic element. It is true that the negro has a natural appreciation of fun and a real exuberance of animal spirits; but their exhibition of these traits is by no means so frequent as we are led to believe by London Ethiopian serenaders.

There is a more melancholy side, to find which it is necessary to hear and see the slaves without the controlling influence of their masters and proprietors, whose presence must necessarily considerably check the expression of their emotions.



MONUMENT IN MEMORY OF MADAME BOSIO ERECTED AT ST. PETERSBURG.

THE FUNERAL MONUMENT OF MDME BOSIO.

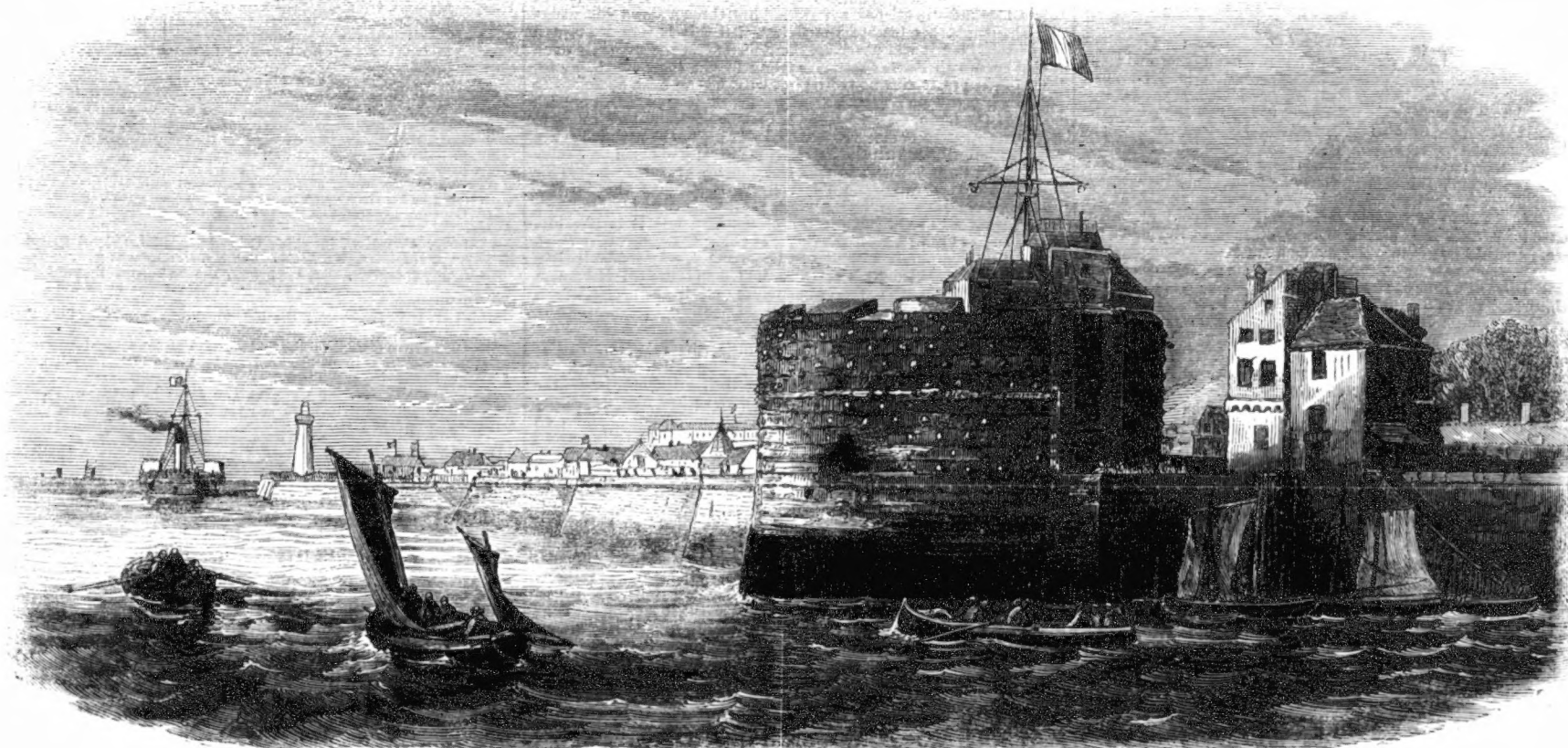
Who among us, having visited the Opera during her performance in London, does not remember Bosio? Who does not regret that she so soon left us to obtain a popularity in St. Petersburg? Who does not

lament her untimely death? There, in the scene of her great artistic triumphs where she had received the homage due to her as one of the greatest singers of our time, and had so long delighted the people by her exquisite art, she has died, while her powers were at their fullest perfection, at the early age of thirty years. Her admirers—that is to say, the whole city of St. Petersburg—have at once testified their sorrow and esteem by the last token in their power, and have erected to her memory a monument, which will long serve to keep her in remembrance. It is the work of a Florentine sculptor, M. Pietro Costa, and consists of a group in bronze, founded, after the manner of Cellini and Michael Angelo, in a single casting. The pedestal is of Finland porphyry, supported by a large granite basement. The group is composed of the bust of Bosio upon a column, at the side of which leans a figure representing the Genius of Art weeping for her loss. Beneath the bust is engraved the medal which was given to Bosio naming her the principal singer of the Russian Court. The monument is very creditable to the artist who executed it, and will long remain a touching memorial of the esteem with which the singer had inspired the people of St. Petersburg.

THE DESTRUCTION OF THE TOWER AT HAVRE.

THE destruction of ancient buildings associated with historical incidents is always a matter for regret, and we have lately had to record the removal of several of those time-honoured localities in which some of the great scenes in the world's drama have been played. A few weeks ago the grand old Castle of Heidelberg was threatened with utter ruin by the undermining of its foundations. We have only just read of the demolition of another of the dark fortresses of Naples; and now the last relic of the days of Francis I. at Havre is doomed to be levelled by pick and spade. That round tower which alone remained of all the fortifications erected by the Monarch who redeemed the town itself from the sea is already a heap of ruins.

Havre, or, as it was formerly named, Havre-de-Grâce, was created in the fifteenth century, when it became necessary to form a new harbour in consequence of the silting up of that of Harfleur. Commenced by Louis XII., it remained little better than a fishing village until the time of Francis I., who granted it several important privileges, and, at an enormous expense, gained the larger portion of the present site of the town from the sea, the inroads of which have always been a source of considerable danger. When the Citadel was built the place was considered to be a position of importance, and consequently became the object of continued hostilities between the French and English. The present fortifications are principally the work of the first Napoleon, and consist of a triple range of ditches supplied with water from the sea, the town itself being surrounded by ramparts and high walls, surmounted by a parapet, and adorned by a planted alley, from which the town has a most picturesque effect. The fortifications themselves, however



THE OLD TOWER OF FRANCIS I, AT HAVRE.

are commanded by the surrounding heights. The city is entered by five gates; and, although the greater part of it is built of brick and stone, with wide rectangular streets, there still remain a number of old painted wooden houses, which, however striking from an artistic point of view, are sufficiently wretched when considered as dwellings.

There are few public buildings in Havre, and those few are not very favourable specimens of architecture. The principal are the Churches of Notre Dame and St. Francis, the Townhouse (which was formerly the Governor's palace), the theatre, arsenal, and exchange. Everything in Havre, however, is essentially maritime, notwithstanding its military environments; and its commercial position is secured by its fine harbour, which is, perhaps, the most accessible in France. This harbour is entered by a narrow channel formed by two long jetties, which stretch from east to west, and are constantly kept clear by dredging. Within the outer harbour, to which this leads, are four capacious wet docks, calculated to afford accommodation for about three hundred vessels of large burden, the docks themselves being flanked by fine quays and a large range of warehouses. It is only during four hours of each tide that the harbour is accessible to large vessels, but, as the tides there continue at their maximum for three hours, this is not a very serious disadvantage.

For these reasons Havre is the second port of France, the extent of its shipping being only exceeded by that of Marseilles. It commands the greater part of the trade of Paris and of the northern towns, both in exports and imports, while its own manufactures are very considerable, consisting of sulphuric acid, earthenware, oil, sugar, cables and cordage, lace, and paper. It has also numerous works for making bricks and tiles, and possesses large breweries, besides a Government tobacco manufactory.

The shipbuilding of Havre has long been famous, and from the various yards there are fitted out every year a large number of both steamers and sailing-vessels of superior construction. The population of Havre is about 30,000.

INNER LIFE OF THE HOUSE OF COMMONS.—NO. 174.

MR. LOWE'S SPEECH.

To Mr. Robert Lowe belongs the honour of having delivered the dreariest speech that has been uttered in the House of Commons within the memory of the oldest member thereof. He began to speak at half-past four o'clock, or thereabouts; he sat down when the hands of the dial had reached twenty minutes past eight. He spoke, therefore, nearly four hours. But it was not the length of the speech that was remarkable, for Gladstone has more than once spoken as long; Disraeli, in 1852, when he propounded his first Budget, and Palmerston when he defended his foreign policy in 1850, longer. It was the dreary monotony of the speech that distinguished it above all others that we ever heard. It was as monotonous as the hum of a bumble-bee or as the drone of a bagpipe. In short, the speech was a prolonged monotone of four hours' length. For an hour or more we watched that dull, monotonous sound, and we can declare that during all that time it did not vary a quarter-tone from the original key. At times the right honourable gentleman spoke somewhat louder or lower than at others, but the key was always the same; and the effect of the monotony was dreary in the extreme. Of course, listening to the speech throughout was an impossibility; nature is incapable of such a labour. When men travel through a sandy desert of miles in extent, after an hour or two they find it quite impossible to keep their attention fixed upon the route. They either fall asleep upon their horses or into a reverie upon objects and scenes far away. And so it was in the House on that Thursday night. It was an interesting subject that Mr. Lowe had to deal with, and one which had been much agitated during the recess, and so anxious were many of the members to understand it that they anticipated or postponed their dinners to hear what the Vice-President of the Education Board had to say upon this vexed question. But it soon became clear that all their resolution sedulously to listen was in vain; nothing could withstand the mesmeric influence of that dull, monotonous sound; and, after the first hour, it became evident that three-fourths of the members, though present in the body, were absent in spirit, and far away from the scene in the land of reverie or dream. "But it was an able speech," some reader may perhaps observe. To which we answer—no doubt a very able speech, showing great knowledge of the subject, cleverness in answering objections, and indications everywhere that the speaker is no common man; and we venture to think that the publication of this speech will produce a powerful impression upon the minds of the people, correcting many mistakes and clearing from the public mind many false notions—in short, a triumphantly successful speech, and one which, when the subject comes to be debated again and again, will stand, in the main, unanswered and unanswerable. But as to the manner in which it was delivered, that, we must maintain, was supremely bad; and here we cannot help remarking upon the strangeness of the fact that so learned and generally able a man as Mr. Lowe is should be unable to deliver a speech with anything like effect. But *poetæ nascitur non fit*; and so it is with the orator, we suppose. And here we leave the subject.

MR. LOWE HIMSELF.

But, though Mr. Lowe cannot deliver a speech except in the monotonous, colourless, dreary manner we have described, he must, if we come to think of his career, be considered a remarkable man. Just let us glance at this career. Mr. Lowe is the son of the Rev. Robert Lowe, a country clergyman. He was educated at Winchester and at University College, Oxford, where he took a first-class in classics and second in mathematics. In 1842 he was called to the Bar at Lincoln's Inn, and in the same year went to Australia, and immediately on his arrival got into a lucrative practice at the colonial bar. In 1843 he became member of the colonial Council, was elected for Sydney in 1848, and in 1850 returned to England with a fortune. In 1852 he got into Parliament for Kidderminster, and in July of the same year he gained so much credit by an able critical analysis of Disraeli's Budget that in the next year he was appointed one of the Secretaries of the old Board of Control. In 1855 he became Vice-President to the Board of Trade, and in 1859 was appointed President of the Board of Health and Vice-President of the Education Board of the Privy Council, which offices he now holds. This is the right hon. gentleman's career. He took a high position—nearly the highest at college; he made a fortune in Australia in less than ten years; he got into office here at home within a year after he entered Parliament; and now he is high in office, and a member of the Privy Council. And all this he has done without the aid of family or other influence, but simply by his own abilities. The personal appearance of Mr. Lowe is singular. Though not an old man—fifty-one years of age—his hair is perfectly white, and his eyebrows and lashes are the same, whilst his eyes, which are small and deep-set, are pink. When he first came into the House it was said that he was an Albino; and an old grumbling Conservative was once heard to say, "I don't know what the House of Commons will come to. Here, I am told, we've got an Albino now come amongst us; I wonder what we shall have next—a nigger, I suppose." Mr. Lowe is not very popular in the House; he is sarcastic, defiant in tone, and intolerant of opposition; and there is a general suspicion in the House that he writes for a certain morning paper, and that occasionally he criticises in its columns with severity the measures of his colleagues, which, as a Minister of the Crown, he is bound to support. The suspicion may be unfounded, but that it generally prevails is unquestionable; indeed, it is taken to be indisputable. "Did you hear Lowe's speech?" inquired one member of another. "No," was the reply; "but I read his articles upon the subject in the *Times*."

DISRAELI IN A MUDDLE.

A suspicion is gaining ground in the House that the Conservative leader is losing his head; and, certainly, his clatter reply to the speech of Mr. Lowe justifies the suspicion. In the House of Lords

the Earl of Derby complimented Earl Granville, and expressed an opinion that a reform in the old minutes on education was required, and that the changes which had been made in the new were steps in the right direction; but Mr. Disraeli could not allow the tempting occasion to pass without venturing a fling at the Government, and a miserable hash he made of it. To criticise the long statement of Mr. Lowe was out of the question; indeed, it is more than probable, for reasons assigned above, that he did not hear one-half of it. He was present during the whole of its delivery; sat with his arms folded and head sunk nearly upon his breast, and might be, for anything that appeared to the contrary, attentively following the speaker; but he must be more than mortal if he really resisted the somniferous influence of that prosy, monotonous, wordy, dreary harangue. Mr. Disraeli never sleeps in the House, we believe; but we have often suspected that when he sits thus with head down and eyes half closed he is not listening, but has retired into his shell to indulge in Asiatic day-dreams and fantasies, or, perhaps, to work out scenes and descriptions for some future novel; or, possibly, he is like that sturdy village lad who, in answer to the clergyman's question, whether Sunday was not a blessed day? said, "Yees, coz I goes to church, cocks up my legs, and thinks of nothing." Mr. Disraeli did not, then, attack the minutes, but the manner in which they were issued; and truly he never shone to so little advantage as he did in this attack. He complained that the minutes were published during the recess, which was not the case, for they were laid upon the table of the House last Session, and had previously been foreshadowed and explained by Mr. Lowe. There was blunder one, and the second was like unto it; for he asserted that not only were these minutes published first, but brought into operation during the vacation; whereas they are not in operation yet, and cannot be until next July. But his illustrations were worse than his assertions. He compared the conduct of the Board of Education to an imaginary person whom he pictured as wiping out in the recess the Reform Bill with a stroke of his pen, and to a fancied Chancellor of the Exchequer, who, without consent of Parliament, had repealed the reformed tariff. Well might Mr. Lowe curtly reply, "The right hon. gentleman asks me what I should think of a man who should do these things. My answer is, Why, I should say he was mad!" Some of the Conservatives of the weaker sort cheered the claptrap of their chief; but the more sensible men held down their heads and looked unutterable things, whilst the noble Lord at the head of the Government was evidently delighted at the blundering and floundering of his foe. The great fault of the Conservative leader is that he is ever on the catch—thinks it his duty never to let anything that comes from the opposite benches pass without censure, and, as much as an Irishman, loves a scrimmage. Like his own Alarcon, he seems to feel that "there's a rapture in the strife of factions."

SIR ROBERT PEEL AND THE IRISH MEMBERS.

If we had the management of *Punch* for a week we should instruct one of the clever artists connected with that facetious print to draw a picture of Sir Robert Peel with his back against one of the pillars of the House and a score or two of angry Irishmen armed with shillelahs rushing tumultuously on to attack the devoted Secretary, and underneath the cut we should place the words of Fitzjames in "The Lady of the Lake"—

Come one—come all! This rock shall fly
From its firm base as soon as I!

for this is very like the position of Sir Robert at this moment. He has roused the Irish members, every man of them; and all are agreed for once upon one thing—to wit, that the great Irish business of the Session must be to attack the Irish Secretary. And bravely, like Fitzjames, Sir Robert stands at present, resolved to do or die in the strife. But it is an unequal fight, and, unless anguaries fail, Sir Robert in the end will get the worst of it. In truth, Sir Robert is hardly the man for this if for any official post. He is too impetuous—too impulsive—too explosive. He needs drilling into official suavity and reticence, and has not yet learned that prime article of a Minister's creed, "That language is given us to conceal and not to reveal our thoughts." The immediate *causa tertium belli* is the denial that there is any special distress in Ireland. Now, to deny the existence of distress was very impolitic. A more cautious Minister would have admitted it whether it really existed or not; for to deny the existence of an alleged Irish grievance is as foolish as to deny the existence of the fancied disease of a hypochondriac. Sir Robert should, in suave and sorrowful tones, have admitted the famine, praised the patience and endurance of the sufferers, lauded the exemplary charity of the Roman Catholic clergy, and especially that of the Bishops; lamented in pathetic tones that her Majesty's Government had no available means to alleviate the sufferings of the poor, and generally where excitement and anger had been roused, with oily speech and glozing official courtesies should have smoothed down the ruffled plumes of the angry and excited. But instead of all this the gallant and gay Secretary has boldly asserted that there is no famine, has in brave words denounced those who say that there is "as interested and dissatisfied agitators," has thrown down his gauntlet and challenges his foes to the fight. All this is very brave and very honest; but it will never do, Sir Robert; and you may rely upon it that that even with Pam as seconder you will not come off victorious. "Truth!" Yes, it may be truth; but what has an Irish Secretary to do in such matters with truth? If you persist in always telling Irish members the truth, all we can say is that for your quarters' salary of £1000, for quarter ending Christmas 1862, we would not give you a brass farthing. Meanwhile, the battle is formally to begin on Friday night. Where it will end no man can foresee: probably—unless Sir Robert should decamp and fly—not till the end of the Session. Rumour says that the noble Lord at the head of her Majesty's Government will back his protégé to the last, and it is like him so to do; but even he must take care, or the wily Conservative chief, ever sitting in ambush watching for opportunity, may suddenly close his ranks, and, aided by the discontented and excited Irishman cohort, overthrow the Government, or at least necessitate a dissolution.

MOTTLÉ.

Two years ago we described Mr. Mottlé, the *soi-disant* Parliamentary agent, whose vocation it is to get up petitions, search out for people aggrieved that he may bring their grievances before the House, &c. This gentleman, the last time we noticed him, was shaky in appearance, and, to use a phrase common in his circle, "down on his luck." He was then, as our readers will recollect, acting agent for the denizens of Houndsditch, whose lawful gains were threatened by a Sabbath bill which was to close their shops and marts on Sunday mornings. Well, now we have to report that Mr. Mottlé is "up in his luck." He no longer appears in broken hat and greasy habiliments, but is fitted out in decent black, passably-clean shirt, and shiny hat, new, or at least revived; and as his dress, so is his employment. He no longer acts for greasy Jews from Houndsditch against the Sabbath bill, but for much more respectable clients for it. The case is this:—Two bills are to be introduced this year, the moderate approved by the Bishop of London; the other, more stringent, sanctioned by the Evangelicals. Mottlé is retained by the Evangelicals, and, of course, dresses accordingly, and any night when his clients are in the lobby, may be seen in close consultation with saintly-looking men, commenting upon their bill and advising thereon. To those who know Mottlé, his haunts, and his habits, what jolly songs he can sing, and what a capital mimic he is in back parlours, where, with pipe in hand and pewter-pot before him, he lays down the law like an oracle, describes the doings of Parliament, and mimics its speakers, there is something exquisitely humorous in this conjunction of Mottlé with the Evangelical clergy. How did it come about? What strange forces brought these opposites together? "Poverty," it is said, "makes us acquainted with strange bedfellows," and so, it seems, does religion. Two years ago we saw

Mottlé introduce his Jewish client to Lord John Russell in the lobby, and that scene was rich enough. But fancy Mottlé shuffling up to a great Minister with a train of Evangelical clergymen behind him! And he is the man to do this if he have the opportunity; indeed, for assurance and cool self-possession, not to say impudence, we will back Mottlé against the world.

Imperial Parliament.

FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 14.

HOUSE OF LORDS.

THE STONE BLOCKADE OF CHARLESTON.

Earl STANHOPE drew attention to the report which had just reached this country to the effect that six more ships laden with stone had been sunk in the channel of Charleston harbour, and inquired whether the Government had received any information on the subject? He had hoped that the remonstrance addressed by Earl Russell to the Government of the Federal States at Washington would have been sufficient to prevent a repetition of an act so contrary to the law of nations. The noble Earl also asked whether any communication had been made by the Government of France to that of Mr. Lincoln upon the subject of the stone fleet?

Earl RUSSELL replied that he was not in the receipt of any official information to confirm the statements contained in the newspapers, but he was glad to hear so energetic a protest from the noble Earl against the permanent destruction of what was in reality nothing more than a commercial harbour; and the destruction of which, he considered, would be a barbarous act, by whatever Government committed. The Government of the Federal States had given the assurance that the sinking of stone vessels in one of the outlets of Charleston harbour was intended to aid the blockade of the Southern ports, and not to permanently destroy that harbour, as the obstruction could be removed upon the restoration of peace. The French Government entirely concurred with that of England in deprecating the act; but he was not aware that they had addressed any official communication to the Government at Washington on the subject.

OPENING OF THE LONDON THEATRES IN PASSION WEEK.

Lord DUNGEON, in calling attention to the fact of licences having been granted by the Lord Chamberlain to metropolitan theatres without the usual condition of closing in Passion Week, strongly deprecated such an innovation as contrary to the true interests of religion.

Lord SYDNEY explained that, while a few theatres in London only were licensed by the Lord Chamberlain, all theatres in the country, music-halls, casinos, and other places of amusement, were licensed by the magistrates, and it was unjust to close the former in Passion Week while the others remained open.

The Bishop of London and Lord Delawarr expressed a hope that the Government would reconsider their decision, and return to the former practice in future years.

Earl STANHOPE suggested that a Committee might be usefully appointed to investigate the law upon the subject. If that were done, he believed the result would be to simplify the system, and vest the control over such establishments in the Secretary of State for the Home Department.

HOUSE OF COMMONS.

THE PREVALENT DISTRESS.

In answer to Mr. Maguire, Sir R. PEEL defended the accuracy of the statement he had made on a previous evening in reference to the alleged existence of distress in Ireland.

Mr. NEWDEGATE gave a painful description of the state of the ribbon and watch and clock trades in Coventry, and said that the effect of the commercial treaty with France was that from 14,000 to 22,000 persons had been maintained on charity, that £17,000 had been drawn out of the savings-banks, and that the number of houses now empty in the town was 2000. He implored the Government not to conclude any treaties of commerce with foreign countries which did not contain some protection for native industry.

Mr. TURNER referred to the distress in the cotton districts of South Lancashire, and complained of the duties levied in India and the colonies on manufactured goods, but deprecated any interference in the civil war in America.

COMMERCIAL TREATY WITH BELGIUM.

Mr. W. FORSTER called attention to the negotiation with Belgium for a new commercial treaty with that country, and inquired whether, in consequence of the commercial negotiations between Prussia and France, there was a probability of a revision of the duties levied by the Zollverein on British manufactures.

THE MASSACRES AT DAHOMEY.—THE SLAVE TRADE.

Lord ALFRED CHURCHILL brought under notice the barbarous sacrifice of human beings by the King of Dahomey, and inquired whether it was the intention of the Government to send a commissioner to the west coast of Africa for the suppression of the slave trade.

Mr. CAVE called the attention of the Government to the withdrawal of the United States' squadron from the coast of Africa, which would probably be followed, he thought, by a large increase of the slave trade.

MINISTERIAL REPLIES.

Lord PALMERSTON, in reply to Lord A. Churchill, said that a mission had been sent to the King of Dahomey to endeavour to induce him to abandon his inhuman practices, which had not met with success, and it was always difficult to prevail upon a savage people to forego native customs. No opportunity, however, would be lost of renewing the endeavours. With regard to the slave trade, the African chiefs would not relinquish it unless they were convinced that legitimate trade would yield more profit. In answer to Mr. Forster, he said negotiations were going on between her Majesty's and the Belgian Governments, which were conducted in the most amicable spirit, and, if successful, would place Great Britain upon the footing, and give us all the advantages, of the most favoured nation. He discussed at some length the matters referred to in the speech of Mr. Forster, paying a tribute, in the course of his observations, to the disinterested conduct of Mr. Cobden. He assured Mr. Newdegate that the French Treaty, its true cause was to be traced to a law of human nature—the fluctuations of fashion.

THE HIGHWAYS BILL.

Sir G. GREY moved the second reading of the Highways Bill. Mr. BARROW stated the objections he entertained to the measure, and urged that it was quite unnecessary and uncalled for. He moved, as an amendment, that it be read a second time that day six months.

Mr. HODGKINSON seconded the amendment. Mr. BASS considered the bill a very beneficial measure, and that the effect of its becoming law would be to save money to ratepayers, and that highways would be kept in a much better condition than at present.

Mr. DONSON suggested that the bill should be referred to a Select Committee. After some discussion, in which Colonel Barttelot, Colonel Patten, Mr. H. Bruce, Mr. Deedes, Mr. Walter, and Mr. Henley took part, Sir G. GREY defended the bill; and, having replied to the objections urged against it, expressed his willingness to consent to its being referred to a Select Committee.

Sir M. W. RIDLEY supported the bill, which was opposed by Lord Fermoy and Mr. Newdegate.

The House then divided for the first time during the present Session, when the second reading of the bill was carried by 141 to 30. The bill was then ordered to be referred to a Select Committee.

REGULATION OF MARKETS AND FAIRS IN IRELAND.

Sir R. PEEL obtained leave to bring in a bill for the better regulation of markets and fairs in Ireland.

RELIEF OF THE POOR.

On the motion of Mr. VILLIERS, a Select Committee was appointed to inquire into the administration of the relief of the poor. Leave was given to Sir R. PEEL to introduce a bill to amend the laws in force for the relief of the destitute poor in Ireland.

MONDAY, FEBRUARY 17.

HOUSE OF LORDS.

THE REVISED EDUCATION CODE.

The Earl of DERBY, in reference to the revised code of education, said that, although the modifications which had been made by the Government had removed some of the objections to it, yet there were other parts which required greater consideration by Parliament than a single discussion in both Houses could give. The noble Lord suggested that ample time should be given for the consideration of the new minute, and that the whole scheme should be embodied in a series of resolutions.

Earl GRANVILLE did not see any reason why the Government should depart from the usual course which had hitherto been followed by laying the minutes of the Privy Council on the table of both Houses, which fully embodied the whole subject-matter of the revised code, and afforded sufficient means of consideration, especially as the Government did not intend to take any advantage of any technicalities in reference to the discussion or the expression of the opinion of Parliament.

THE EARL OF CLARENDON AND COUNT CAVOUR.

The Earl of CLARENDON called attention to certain letters of the late Count Cavour, recently published in the newspapers, which had caused him great surprise, and in which certain statements were attributed to him

which required explanation. He had no objection whatever to take the responsibility of whatever he might have written or done; but he felt bound to deny the absurdity imputed to him of having advised Piedmont to pick a quarrel with Austria, in which the former would have the material support of England. It was true that, at the Congress of Paris, Count Cavour was always pressing the subject of Italian independence, with which the Congress had nothing to do; and after the question of the peace with Russia was concluded, there was a discussion on the state of Italy, and the result was an agreement for the withdrawal of the Austrian and French troops of occupation from parts of Italy. He did not conceal from Count Cavour that the moral support of England would be extended to Italy in a war of independence, but nothing passed of sufficient importance to warrant him (the Earl of Clarendon) in reporting the substance of these conversations to his colleagues. The only expression of his which could be construed into the language used in the letters to which he referred was to the effect that if Austria made war on Piedmont the latter might be sure of the sympathy of the English Parliament and people. All the rest was an imaginative report contained in private letters not intended for publication.

THE TRANSFER OF LAND.

The LORD CHANCELLOR called attention to the subject of the titles to land and its transfer, and laid on the table a bill giving certain titles to real estates. He pointed out that mere possession or proof of regular occupation for any period less than sixty years was not sufficient to constitute a title; but every stage of devolution must be shown to be perfect according to law, or the whole title was vitiated. Having pointed out other defects in the existing law, the noble and learned Lord explained that the object of the measure which he asked their Lordships to sanction was threefold—to give a good statutory indefeasible title; to provide the means by which that title might be ascertained; and, lastly, the means by which it might be transferred. The noble and learned Lord, having explained at some length the peculiar machinery by which he proposed to carry into effect the important changes which he contemplated in the law affecting the sale and transfer of real estates, moved that the bill be referred to a Select Committee.

LORD CHANWORTH approved of the principle of the bill; but, as regarded the details, he would withhold his opinion for the present. The noble and learned Lord then laid on the table two bills which he had prepared on the same subject.

LORD CHILMSFORD also approved of the principle of the bill, and likewise laid on the table two bills which had been prepared by the Government of Lord Derby. The noble and learned Lord suggested that the five bills should be referred to a Select Committee.

The LORD CHANCELLOR agreed.

HOUSE OF COMMONS.

SUPPLY.—THE ESTIMATES AND THE TRENT AFFAIR.

On the motion for going into Committee of Supply on the Supplemental Estimates (Army and Navy).

SIR H. WILLOUGHBY again commented upon the uselessness of voting estimates in the ordinary way when the Government could increase the expenditure of the country as it pleased, and when the money which the House voted for one purpose could be applied to another.

SIR G. C. LEWIS stated, in explanation, that the Supplemental Estimates to be voted that evening would be sufficient to meet the extra expenditure for the financial year 1861-2.

MR. BRIGHT took the opportunity of questioning the expediency of this expenditure of nearly a million of money. It did not appear from the despatches that any blame attached to her Majesty's Government in relation to the affair of the Trent; but there was a great deal of difference between the conduct of the Foreign Office in the despatches and other parts of the conduct of the Government. He condemned in strong terms the measures taken by the Government contemporaneously with the despatches, as calculated to create a belief that war was inevitable. It must have been well known, he said, that the American Government would not and could not have resisted the demand for the surrender of the persons taken in the Trent; but there were certain sections in this country desirous of provoking a war between the two countries, and the great demonstration of force made by the Government led many persons to the conclusion that there would be war. There was no Government in the world so much disposed to abide by defined law as that of the United States, and he had no doubt that the unhappy incident would have been amicably settled at once but for the menaces on this side. When such a cause produced a jarring between the two nations it was the policy and the duty of this Government to try all moderate measures before they took steps that tended to paralyse commerce and involve all classes in loss.

MR. BAXTER could not concur with Mr. Bright in condemning the measures of the Government, which showed that Great Britain was in earnest. So far from the event creating bitter feelings in America, he believed it would in the end, and before long, lead to a much better understanding between the two countries.

LORD PALMERSTON observed that Mr. Bright, though he did justice to the moderate tone of their despatches, thought the Government wrong in their military and naval preparations, and in sending troops to Canada. The point of his argument was that the Government of the United States was bound, and ought to know that they were bound, by international law to give up the persons taken on board the Trent, and that they were free from any control. If so, why did they wait and keep those four gentlemen in prison, knowing that they were entitled to their freedom from the first moment of their capture? This was a proof to his mind that they did not consider themselves bound to surrender them. And were there no other reasons for believing that our demand would not be complied with? He referred Mr. Bright to the tone and temper exhibited by the public in the United States on the occasion, and to the ovation offered to Captain Wilks, who had been made a kind of hero because he had insulted this country. One of the departments of the Government—the American Admiralty—had thanked him; and, further still, the House of Representatives had voted its approval of his act. With these facts before their eyes, would the Government have deserved censure if they had done so. And what did the Government of the United States consider our weak point? Why, Canada and the North American colonies, which were almost defenceless; and it was the duty of the Imperial Government to strengthen them. He thought, therefore, that the censure of Mr. Bright was not deserved, and that the Government had only fulfilled their bounden duty. Submission on our part to insult would have sown the seeds of a more hostile feeling between the two countries. If one nation thought another disposed to submit tamely to an outrage an encouragement would be offered to the commission of such acts.

The House then went into Committee, when the several items of the Estimates underwent a long discussion, in the course of which the question as to the incidence of the expense attending the defence of the North American colonies was mooted.

The resolutions were ultimately agreed to.

PAROCHIAL ASSESSMENTS BILL.

On the motion of Sir G. GREY, the Parochial Assessments Bill was read a second time, with the understanding that it was to be referred to a Select Committee and that the principle of the bill should be open to discussion when it came from the Committee.

TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 18.

HOUSE OF LORDS.

TREATMENT OF BRITISH SUBJECTS IN AMERICA.—MR. SHAVER.

The EARL OF CARNARVON again called attention to the treatment of British subjects by the Federal authorities, and especially to the arrest of Mr. Shaver, a British subject, by the American Government, and his imprisonment in Fort Warren. As Mr. Shaver had suffered much in health, and been in imminent peril of his life, Lord Carnarvon considered that this was especially a case for compensation, accompanied with expressions of regret on the part of the American Government. He wished, therefore, to know whether any claim for compensation had been made by her Majesty's Government, and whether there would be any objection to lay the correspondence respecting it on the table of the House.

LORD RUSSELL stated that, as Mr. Shaver had made no claim for compensation, he would not have been justified in asking for compensation for him. It might happen that the charges brought against Mr. Shaver by the Federal authorities, that he had suffered himself to be the means of communication between the Confederates and their agents in Canada and Europe, and had also been the means of conveying arms into the Southern States, were based in truth. In any case, Mr. Shaver ought to supply satisfactory evidence that they were unfounded before her Majesty's Government demanded compensation. In conclusion, he expressed a hope that allowances would be made for any stretch of power which was not meant to be injurious to British subjects or an insult to our flag.

The other business before the House was not of general interest.

HOUSE OF COMMONS.

PARLIAMENTARY REFORM.

LORD PALMERSTON, amidst some laughter, stated, in reply to a question from Mr. Cox, that it was not the intention of the Government to introduce any bill in the course of the present Session to amend the representation of the people in Parliament.

MURDERS IN THE ARMY.

In answer to Mr. Richardson, Sir G. C. LEWIS said that the military authorities who had been consulted on the subject were of opinion that no effectual precautions could be taken to prevent private soldiers from using ball cartridge for unlawful purposes, but that he had under his consideration a bill providing that, in case of murder by a soldier, the trial and punishment should follow each other in a much shorter period than under the present system.

LAND DEBENTURES, IRELAND.

MR. SCULLY obtained leave to bring in a bill for authorising transferable debentures to be charged upon land in Ireland. The hon. and learned gentleman explained the provisions of the measure, the principle of which, he said, had been tried with considerable success in Germany and other countries, and which, if it became law, would enable a landowner to issue debentures secured upon his land equal to one half of the marketable value.

TRADE MARKS.

MR. ROEBUCK moved for leave to bring in a bill to amend the law relating to trade marks. The hon. gentleman said that his only object was to protect the honest manufacturers from the frauds and forgeries of others who, making a worthless article, endeavoured to palm it off on the public as the genuine and well-known article. He proposed that the offence of forging a registered trade mark should be punishable as a misdemeanour, and be dealt with under the summary jurisdiction given to magistrates for that offence.

MR. M. GIBSON (who had himself given notice of a similar bill) said he was quite willing that the bill of Mr. Roebuck, as also that of which he had himself given notice, should be referred to a Select Committee, so that out of both a good measure might be produced. The great difficulty in the way of legislating on the subject was to know what was a trade mark, and what means could be taken to prevent frivolous and vexatious prosecutions against manufacturers.

Leave was granted.

THE AUSTRALIAN EXPLORING EXPEDITION.

MR. CHILDERES, in moving for copies of all despatches from Sir Henry Barkly and other colonial Governors on the subject of the successful crossing of the Australian continent by the expedition under the charge of Mr. Burke, passed an eloquent panegyric upon the brave men who had sacrificed their lives in the undertaking. The motion was agreed to.

THE UTILISATION OF SEWAGE.

On the motion of Mr. BRADY, a Select Committee was appointed to inquire into the best means of utilising the sewage of the cities and towns of England, with a view to the reduction of local taxation and the benefit of agriculture.

WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 19.

HOUSE OF COMMONS.

QUALIFICATION FOR OFFICES ABOLITION BILL.

MR. NEWDEGATE moved the second reading of this bill.

MR. NEWDEGATE moved that the bill should be read a second time that day six months; but, on a division, the second reading was carried by 63 to 54.

MARRIAGES OF AFFINITY.

MR. M. MILNES having moved the second reading of the Marriages of Affinity Bill,

MR. LYON protested against the haste with which the measure had been pressed on, considering that it was now made to apply to Scotland and Ireland.

MR. COLLIER at some length supported, and Mr. BLACKBURN, on religious grounds, opposed, the bill.

MR. HEADLAM declined to enter into the theological question, but expressed his belief that the measure was adapted to meet an admitted grievance, and he should vote for it.

LORD R. CECIL, having argued against the measure, moved its rejection.

SIR G. GREY stated that he should pursue the course he had hitherto adopted and vote for the bill as a measure which, on a balance of advantages, was likely to prove beneficial to society. Unless, however, the feeling of the House in its favour was decidedly and unequivocally expressed, he did not think it would be desirable to continue to agitate the public mind by fruitless discussion of the subject.

MR. WALPOLE expressed himself strongly opposed to the measure, and maintained that no law had ever done more to elevate the tone of the character of women and to give them a proper status in the consideration of men than that which put the sexes on an equal social footing. He warned the House against tampering with a question which went to the very root of the wellbeing of society, and characterised the bill as fraught with danger to the general welfare, while it would only relieve a few persons from the consequences of their own selfish conduct.

MR. BUXTON and SIR E. COLEBROOKE supported the bill.

MR. SPOONER, having carefully examined the question, and from experience gained from his knowledge of Birmingham, had come to the conclusion that such a measure was desirable for the wellbeing of society.

MR. A. KINNAIRD opposed the bill, believing it to be not in consonance with the feeling of the people of Scotland.

MR. MILNES, in reply, went into the question principally from a social point of view, pointing out the anomaly of prohibiting marriages of this kind in this country, when they were the common usage in the colonies; and, in reference to the legal status of a sister-in-law, observed that in the case of a legacy left by a man to his wife's sister, the law treated her not as a near relative, but as an alien in blood and kin, and made her pay the same legacy duty as a stranger.

On a division the second reading was carried by 144 to 133.

WAYS AND MEANS.

In Committee of Ways and Means, a sum of £993,474 was granted towards making good supply to the 31st of March, 1862.

MARRIAGE (IRELAND) LAW.—TRADE MARKS.

SIR H. CAIRNS obtained leave to bring in a bill to amend the law relating to the solemnisation and registration of marriages in Ireland.

MR. M. GIBSON obtained leave to bring in a bill to amend the law relating to the fraudulent marking of merchandise.

THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 20.

HOUSE OF LORDS.

Their Lordships met for only a few minutes. No public business was disposed of.

HOUSE OF COMMONS.

THE REVISED CODE.

MR. WALPOLE gave notice that on Tuesday, the 11th of March, he would move that, on a day to be then named, the House should resolve itself into Committee to consider the distribution of the Parliamentary grants for education now in the hands of the Committee of Privy Council, and, in the event of the House going into Committee, he would move amendments on the Revised Code of Education.

BRITISH COLUMBIA.

MR. CAIRD asked the Under-Secretary of State for the Colonies whether he could confirm the reports which had recently appeared regarding gold discoveries in British Columbia, and if he would lay upon the table any recent information regarding that colony and its goldfields; whether it was the intention of Government to establish a regular postal communication with British Columbia; and whether any recent information regarding the Australian goldfields would be laid upon the table.

MR. C. FORSTER said that the papers which he had laid on the table would confirm, but would not add much to, the valuable letters which had appeared in the columns of the Times.

THE BUDGET.

The CHANCELLOR of the EXCHEQUER said it was his intention to make his financial statement before Easter.

REPRESENTATION OF GLOUCESTER.

MR. BERKELEY moved that Mr. Speaker do issue his warrant to the Clerk of the Crown to make out a new writ for the electing of two citizens to serve in this present Parliament for the city of Gloucester, in the room of Philip William Price and Charles James Monk, Esqrs., whose election has been determined to be void. The hon. gentleman entered at some length into a statement in reference to past Parliamentary contests in Gloucester, and paid a high compliment to the able and intelligent commissioners who were appointed to conduct the inquiry; but he objected to the commission itself, which had something of a sacerdotal character. The commissioners said in effect that all the rascality of the town might come to them, and that they would give all the political sinners who duly confessed absolution and remission of sins. Having obtained all the information they could, they said, "Now you may return to your virtuous homes, and pax vobis." Considering the valuable members Gloucester had sent to the Legislature, he thought it ought to be no longer disfranchised. He described Gloucester as a suppliant Magdalen now coming forward to present her petition to the House.

SIR G. GREY said it was not the intention of the Government to oppose the issue of the writ for Gloucester, nor that for Wakefield, which was next to be moved for by Major Edwards; but he did not agree with the statement which had been made that those boroughs had been improperly or inadequately punished. He hoped to present a bill very shortly for the amendment of the Corrupt Practices at Elections Act, which would meet the cases of such places as Gloucester and Wakefield.

MR. DISBURY thought that the Government could not take any other course than that which had been adopted. To withhold a writ by one branch of the Legislature was an arbitrary and unconstitutional proceeding, which ought not to be had recourse to except under very exigent circumstances.

MR. PROCTOR defended the course he had previously taken in opposing the issue of this writ.

The motion was then agreed to, and the writ was ordered to be issued.

THE WAKEFIELD WRIT.

On the motion of Major EDWARDS, it was also ordered that the writ for the borough of Wakefield should be issued.

REGISTRATION OF BIRTHS AND DEATHS (IRELAND).

On the motion of Sir R. Peel, leave was given him to introduce a bill for the registration of births and deaths in Ireland, the object being to assimilate the law of Ireland in that respect to the law of England and Scotland.

ASSURANCES (REGISTRATION) IN IRELAND.

SIR R. PEEL also obtained leave to introduce a bill to consolidate and amend the laws relating to the registration of assurances in Ireland.

DREADFUL COLLIERY EXPLOSION.

FORTY-SEVEN LIVES LOST.

AN awful explosion occurred on Wednesday, at about about twelve o'clock, at the Gettinn Coalpit, Merthyr Tydvil, by which forty-seven lives were sacrificed.

ELECTION INTELLIGENCE.

GREAT GRIMSBY.—The election in Great Grimsby has terminated in the return of the Conservative candidate; the numbers at the close of the poll being—for Chapman (Conservative), 456; Henegue (Liberal), 436; majority, 20. So that Mr. Henegue, by throwing up Lincoln, has let in a Conservative for that borough and has thrown himself out altogether.

LEICESTER.—Mr. J. A. Taylor has been returned for this borough without opposition.

LONGFORD COUNTY.—Colonel White, M.P. for the county of Longford, having been appointed the Irish Lord of the Treasury, will have to appeal to his constituents for re-election. The names of several gentlemen have been mentioned as likely to contest the seat; but it is generally believed that no opposition to the Colonel's return will be offered, although the priest party have held a meeting and declared their determination to support any "honest and independent gentleman" who may be willing to contest the county. No one, however, has yet presented himself.

WAKEFIELD.—In anticipation of the issue of a writ, Sir J. C. D. Hay, the Conservative, and Mr. Smethurst, Liberal, have renewed their canvass. There is scarcely any excitement in the town, the inhabitants quietly awaiting the event.

THE PRINCE OF WALES.—His Royal Highness the Prince of Wales has concluded the purchase of Sandringham estate, near Lynn, Norfolk, to which he made a visit of inspection before leaving England on his tour in the East. The estate, which has been purchased for shooting purposes, has up to the present time been held by Mr. Spencer Cowper, and it is said to abound in game. The amount paid for the property is £200,000. The Prince, before finally coming to a decision on the subject, had also turned his attention to the Somerlyton estate, near Lowestoft, the property of Sir S. Morton Peto, M.P., but it was considered less favourable for the required purpose. Access to the Sandringham property will shortly be facilitated by the Lynn and Hunstanton Railway, now in rapid progress. His Royal Highness, as we mentioned in our last week's Number, arrived at Vienna on the 12th inst., and was immediately visited by the Emperor and other members of the Imperial family. The Prince left again on the 15th for Trieste, where the steamer Osborne was waiting to convey him to Corfu en route for the East. The Vienna papers mention a handsome donation made by his Royal Highness for the benefit of the sufferers by the inundations and unusually severe weather, which latter had greatly aggravated the misery of thousands of poor houseless wretches driven by the waters from their homes with the loss of everything they possessed.

THE ARCHDUKE AND THE OVERSEEN THRONE.—It is stated positively that the proposition made by the Mexican Emperors to the Archduke Maximilian have been seriously examined by that Prince, who, before giving a definitive reply, is said to have required the fulfilment of the following conditions:—The people of Mexico must manifest their will to establish a liberal Monarchy in the country; next, they must spontaneously make known their intentions the choice of the Sovereign; and, lastly, their choice shall be approved of by Europe.

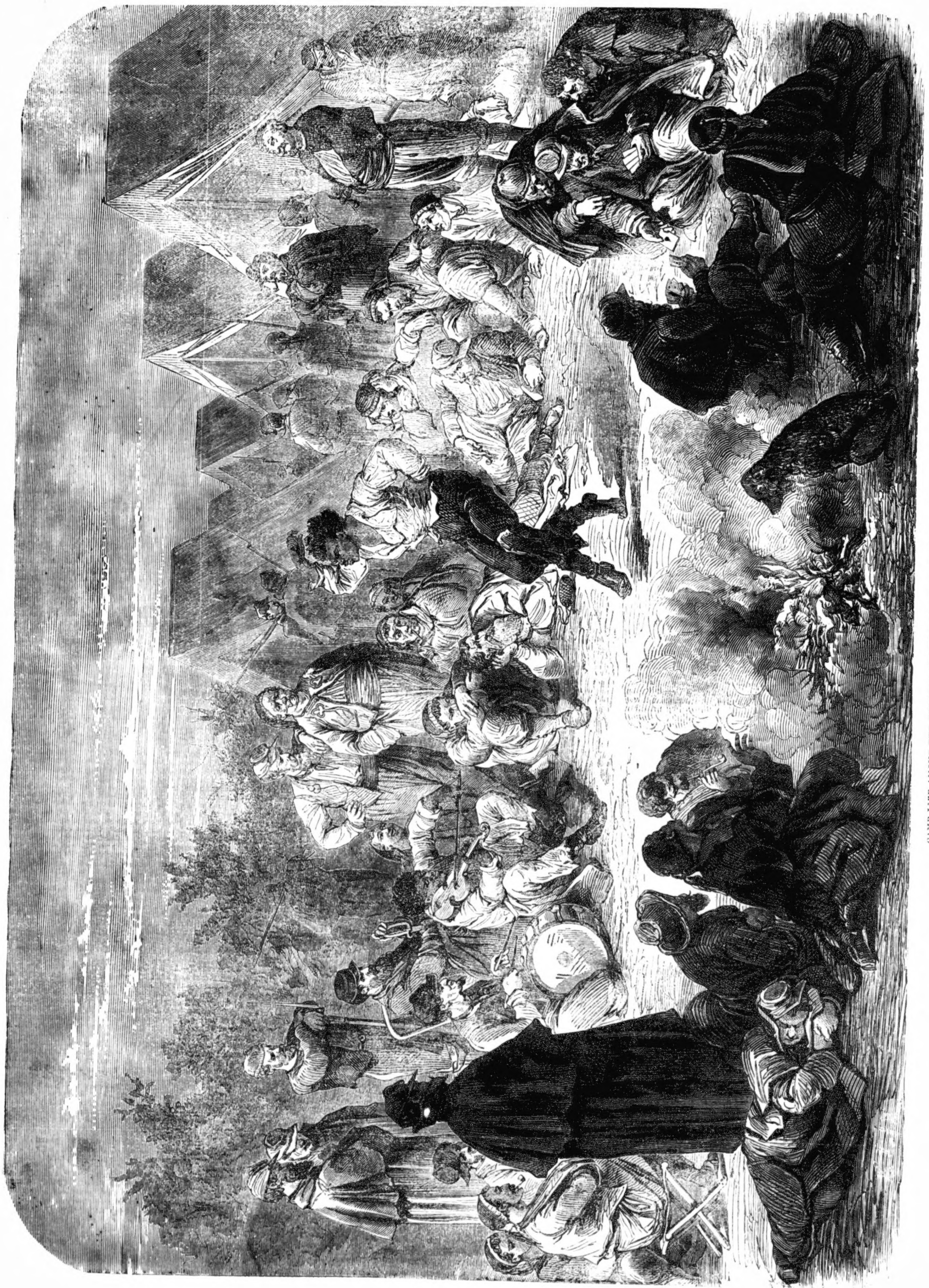
"ACCIDENT" TO THE ELECTOR OF HESSE CASSEL.—An incident at the Château of Cassel, of which only vague accounts have been hitherto published, is thus described by the *Berlin Gazette de la Bourse*:—"The Elector surprised his wife reading a number of the *Kladderadatsch*, in which there was an article purporting to comment on the attention shown at a ball by the Prince de Hanau to the daughters of the President of the Chamber of Deputies, and which contained some ironical allusions to the Prince's father. The Elector's anger at this affront gave rise to vigorous reproaches, and finished at last by provoking one of those domestic scenes which usually terminate in cries of 'Help!' or 'Fire!' from the feeblest party. At length a valet who was in the antechamber thought, for some reason or other, that his assistance was wanted, and ran into the room. His sudden appearance was far from agreeable to the Elector, who attempted to show his feelings by a movement which allowed the valet to seize hold of his foot. This act of legitimate defence occasioned an unpleasant fall, and resulted in a rather rude contact between a head, a hand, a table, and a mirror."

THE YELVERTON CASE.—This case was again before the Scotch Court last week, when, after some evidence had been given as to the respectability of Mrs. Yelverton's family, Mary Anne Cahill, a young woman belonging to Rostrevor, who at the time of the marriage resided in Sangster's hotel as nursemaid to a lady, deposed positively that the lady and gentleman alleged to have been Major Yelverton and Miss Longworth previous to the marriage occupied different bedrooms, having no communication with each other, and gave very circumstantial testimony in support of that statement. For identification by this witness the pursuer herself was for the first time introduced into court, and, on being sworn to by the witness as the lady in question, withdrew. The witness was then subjected to a lengthened cross-examination by the defender's counsel, in the course of which she stated that she had seen the pursuer at different times subsequently at Rostrevor and also at Belfast, where witness was now in service, and that she had refused to make her statement to the defender's agent, who called upon her to recognise her after her arrival in Edinburgh. The defender was not present to be identified; but counsel made a sufficient admission to obviate the necessity of his appearance. A further adjournment of the case was applied for by Mrs. Yelverton's counsel in order to obtain the evidence of Richard Sloane, one of the witnesses to the ceremony in Rostrevor Chapel, who, he stated, had been three times carried off to the Isle of Man by agents of the defender when sought for by the pursuer's agents, who had not been able to get him for the Dublin trial. It was intended to apply for a Judge's order, whether in England or Ireland, to compel Sloane to attend. Lord Ardmilman appointed the pursuer to lodge a minute stating distinctly what she alleged and offered to prove in regard to the abduction of this witness.

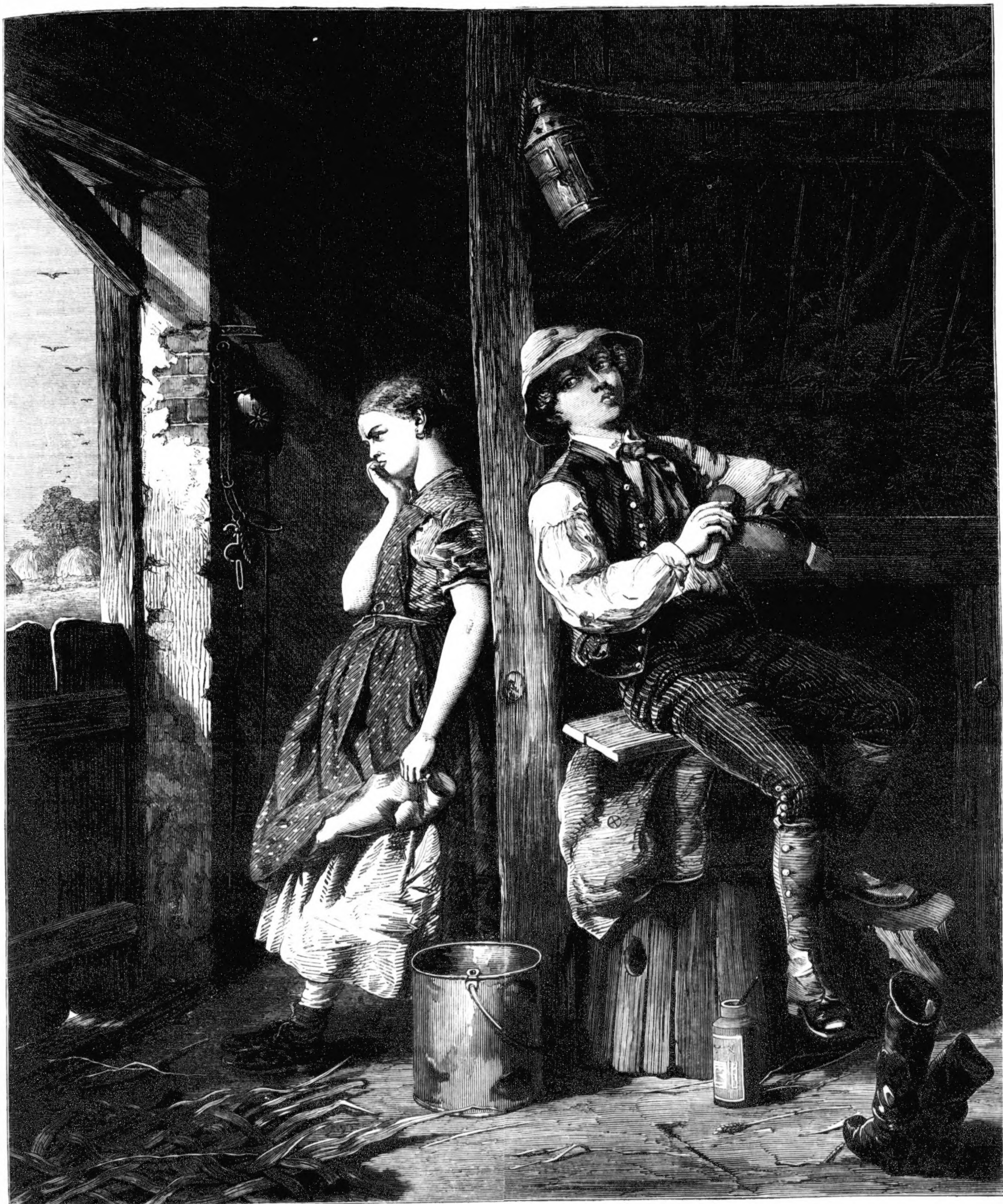
A "NEW SENSATION."—At the Oxford Music Hall there are now performing two boys, Henri and Pfau, by name, of the respective ages of nine and eleven, who already rival Leotard in his extraordinary flying performances, and who, if they come to maturity—which is doubtful, considering that no two youths ever lived so hard to get their necks broken—are likely to entirely eclipse both Leo the wondrous and Blondin the marvellous in feats of daring. The distance between two of the trapezes, from one to the other of which these boys spring, is, we are informed, 37ft. 10in.—6ft. over Leotard's longest leap. Henri is a lanky boy, and looks somewhat awkward before he begins to "work," to use the technical phrase; but when he does begin all that disappears, and he goes through his performance in a truly wonderful manner. Pfau, who insists on being called a Russian, because—though his father was German and his mother French—he was born in Moscow, is a little imp, who would drive all the light-weight jockeys on the turf to the verge of insanity through envy of his extreme diminutiveness and agility. The most singular part of these boys' performance is when they work together; for they seem, like the famous Siamese twins, to have a volition and action perfectly harmonious and simultaneous. Those who delight in new and powerful sensations should not omit the opportunity of enjoying the one provided just now at the Oxford.

PAUPERISM IN SCOTLAND.—The number of registered poor in Scotland on the 14th of May last (the date to which the returns are made up) was 78,433, and the persons dependent on them 38,680; and the number of unregistered or casual poor, with their dependents, was 7078; making in all 124,191, which is 4 per cent of the population, or 1 person in every 25. The total sum expended in the year 1860-1 was £685,902, an increase of £29,604 over the previous year. This sum is rather more than £5 6s. per cent on the annual value of real property, as estimated for 1859. It is 4s. 5d. per head of the population. The expenditure in the relief of registered poor, or poor on the roll, has been constantly increasing for several years. Ten years ago it was very little more than £400,000, and last year it was £531,000. The increase has been not so much in the numbers relieved as in the average allowance to each pauper.

THE WATERLOO-ROAD ACCIDENT.—The following is the verdict of the Coroner's jury which has inquired into the cause of the death of Edmund James Robins, one of the victims of the late accident in the Waterloo-road:—"We find that Edmund James Robins came to his death by the falling of the stone slab and iron grating in front of the houses No. 198 and No. 199, Waterloo-bridge-road; and the jury cannot but express their opinion that the conduct of Mr. Jones, the superior landlord, in distraining for rent, under the circumstances detailed in evidence, was highly reprehensible."



CAMP LIFE AMONG THE FEDERAL TROOPS IN SOUTH CAROLINA—SEE PAGE 117.



THE TIFF.—(FROM A PICTURE, BY T. P. HALL, IN THE BRITISH INSTITUTION.)

THE TIFF.

It is by no means certain that this is essentially a funny picture, although it is commonly believed that "lover's quarrels," especially in humble life, are decidedly comic occurrences. It is one of the strange distortions of mental vision which accompany a sense of the ludicrous, that a great many very painful events are placed amongst the catalogue of things to be laughed at. This is extended even to certain physical disorders, and the resulting agony from them fails to remove the accepted notion that they are actually comic diseases of which people should not have the ill taste to die, unless they really consider death itself to be, according to Gay's epitaph, the grand proof and solution of the great life-jest.

There is, of course, a humorous side to our picture, but that is in no degree really enhanced by the station in life of the people who figure in it.

The slim healthy milkmaid who neglects her pail in the bitterness of feeling that Giles does not appreciate her, and *will not* leave off whistling an assumed indifference to her fit of sulks, is as human and deserves as much sympathy, and even less ridicule, than the fine

lady under similar circumstances. While Giles himself will assuredly win his way, not only for the philosophy which leads him to whistle, even at the risk of whistling up a fresh breeze, but for the energy with which he pursues the polishing of the boot, until it shall serve as a looking-glass to reflect the dolorous countenance of his mistress.

But they have a touch of pathos, these "tiffs," and are not always blown away by whistling; the dark shadows thrown by aggressive thoughts lengthen beyond the thoughts themselves. The doubt unexpressed and only half imagined, the hesitation, the slight indication of distrust, may occur long afterwards, and even serve to embitter hours that might have been bright and happy enough.

All things considered, it may often be better to have a thorough quarrel, followed immediately by mutual explanations and admissions, than to maintain a "tiff" which is never capable of explanation, and yet leaves a little rankling shaft of doubt and pretended antagonism to worry continually.

If Giles is really a philosopher, he will leave off whistling presently and offer to carry the pail; then he may see the cloud pass away, and his own bright smile reflected in a face which now is in danger of curdling a whole dairyful of milk.

THE BRITISH INSTITUTION.

It is pleasant to be able to report a decided improvement in this year's exhibition of the British Institution. This is, of course, but qualified praise; there is a very great deal yet to be done before the great gulph between this gallery and the Royal Academy can be spanned. The hanging of the pictures, though improved, yet shows strong evidence of the favouritism which for so long has been the bane of this institution; and the bare acceptance of very many of the works argues either very bad taste on the part of the committee or very bad painting among British artists in general.

Perhaps the most noticeable picture in the collection is Mr. John Gilbert's "Wolsey and the Duke of Buckingham," which, though full of pretension and savouring somewhat too strongly of theatrical exaggeration, is spirited, bold, and catching. Wolsey, followed by his train, is sweeping out of one of the antechambers of the palace when he comes upon the Dukes of Buckingham and Norfolk in conversation. There is a passage of eyes between Buckingham and the Cardinal, in which the threatening scowl of Wolsey, and the bold defiant glare of the Duke are admirably rendered. Except in the faces

THE DOG OF THE REGIMENT.

"Every dog has his day" is a sentiment which is either hopeful or cynical, according to the application of it; but it may be affirmed in a general sense that, except in the case of the masterless dogs of our city streets, the canine race obtains a more kindly recognition in England than in any other country in the world, although the title of "the friend of man" is granted to the sagacious brute in almost every place where he has a fair opportunity of making himself appreciated.

Stories of celebrated dogs whose deeds have been historically preserved are so numerous that it would be dangerous to repeat even one of them, lest we should be led into whole pages of digression; and even upon the subject of vagrant and masterless dogs much has been written which is worth reading—much, doubtless, remains to be said. Who has not heard, for instance, of the dogs of Constantinople, those gaunt, fierce, wolf-like animals who form it would seem, a distinct and necessary part of the population, have established amongst themselves a regular polity, combine into parties for mutual defence and aggression, and occasionally unite their wild hordes against some common enemy? Who does not remember the pertinacity with which he has been followed by some fourfooted midnight wanderer in London, and, turning round to warn off the intruder, has received such touching manifestations of allegiance and voluntary affection as have induced him to take home a rather troublesome guest who thenceforth became inalienable?

Then there are the marvellous records of public and historical dogs—of the famous Dog of Montargis, who has since reappeared in so many a canine drama—of the gentleman who killed his faithful animal believing him to be madly loitering on the road, only to find that he was trying to attract his attention to a dropped money-bag—of the farmer who, under the impression that his mastiff had killed his child whose blood was sprinkled on the floor, shot the brave protector who had overturned the cradle of the sleeping boy to guard him from the wolf (or sow) who came in with evil intention—of the host of performing dogs, the celebrated "Braque," or calculating dog, being one of the most notorious, and of the eccentric dog (a masterless one, too) who cultivated an almost human propensity for running about London to witness conflagrations, was never absent from a fire of any magnitude, and at last regularly accompanied the brigade, or even preceded them, occasionally getting "a lift" if they happened to observe him on the road. It is, of course, natural enough that there should be dogs in the army, and many of



THE DOG OF THE REGIMENT.—(FROM A PICTURE BY NOTTERMAN.)

them have attained considerable distinction (occasionally shared with other animals) from having been through numerous campaigns, and even receiving honourable wounds in active service.

This is by no means confined to England, however, for in many of the French regiments the dog is a recognised accompaniment, and perhaps leads no very unhappy life. M. Notterman has lately given us a picture (from which our Engraving is taken) of one of these favourites in the very act of performing his canine drill, a picture which shows consummate ability in rendering with lifelike fidelity the scene which it represents. The French have before had preserved on the canvas of an historical painter the portrait of the celebrated dog "Barry," who, after saving some forty lives, retired to spend his declining years in the Canton of Berne, where he subsisted on a small but sufficient pension.

THE SMUGGLERS.

It is very doubtful whether there are any real, genuine smugglers nowadays, although the stories about them will perhaps never cease to interest many juvenile readers.

The hoarse men in rough pea-jackets who emerge upon the wayfarer with the whispered offer of gloves, French boots, and cigars, voyage from places no farther distant than the New cut or Seven-dials, and even these have disappeared to present themselves in other characters, with reference to skittles and other games, by which to inveigle too credulous countrymen.

It is true that the illegal landing of lace, gloves, and eau-de-cologne, beneath too ample crinolines, is pretty extensively practised and not unfrequently discovered; but this is not smuggling in the old sense of the term. Where are the Will Watches—the bold spirits who owned secret caves, where kegs, bales, and barrels were stored in receptacles known only to the initiated, and ready to be blown up with a train of gunpowder at any moment when discovery was threatened? These things exist only on the stage now. The coastguard service is too complete for successful runs of contraband cargoes to be repeated. And yet not many years ago, on the Devon coast, it was no uncommon thing for a farmer whose land lay near the sea to discover kegs and barrels in his furrowed fields, or an occasional cask or two under an old haystack. He, being a wise man, would fail to see them, unless he happened to be alone at the time. Allowing them to lie undisturbed, they would vanish as mysteriously as they came, and in a day or two a small keg of "the right sort" would be left at the house door as a present to the good man, who, of course, could never make out who sent it.



SMUGGLERS.—(FROM A PHOTOGRAPHIC STUDY.)

Cornwall was, and perhaps still is (for it is a wild and impenetrable coast), the very place for "the bold smuggler." There are his caves still yawning for the bales and boxes which seldom or never come. Lying down there under the beetling granite crags, and only accessible at ebb of the tide, the subterranean warehouses are amongst the most beautiful parts of Cornish scenery; but, at the same time, have been the places where deeds of atrocious cruelty have been enacted. The records of smugglers and wreckers are amongst the most terrible in our criminal annals; and to fill the office of ex-ciseman in these wild and lawless districts must have required both courage and cunning, if a man desired to preserve his life or to escape the refined tortures to which he was likely to be subjected if caught by his sworn foe. On the whole, however romantic may have been his life, the disappearance of the "bold smuggler" is an enormous public benefit.

MR. BIGGS.

MR. JOHN BIGGS, late M.P. for Leicester, who has just retired from Parliament, entered the House in 1856, on the death of Mr. Gardiner. He was elected then without opposition. In 1857 he had to stand a contest, but came in easily, beating his opponent, Sir Joshua Walsley, by nearly 200 votes. In 1859 he had again to fight for his seat, but on this occasion he headed the poll. Mr. Biggs is a wholesale hosier, and, we believe, a self-made man. At all events, Dod says nothing of his ancestry, but simply records that he was born at Leicester in 1811. In his native town Mr. Biggs must be much respected, for he has at three different times been chosen Mayor of the borough; and, whatever quarrels there may have been amongst the Liberals of Leicester, they all united in supporting Mr. Biggs. The hon. gentleman never attempted to make a figure in the House, but he was not entirely a silent member, and when he spoke, though there was little of order and arrangement in his speeches, and no signs of preparation, he always spoke with point, ease, and evident integrity of purpose, and at times with a homely, simple humour which produced a good deal of mirth. In short, Mr. Biggs was a plain, simple-minded, shrewd, honest man, of capital qualities, and a very good representative of the class from which he sprang. His reasons for leaving the House thus suddenly are described as "private." The fact probably is that, coming into the House late in life, he found the labour of attending to its duties and the large business which he has to superintend too much for

him, and therefore wisely, as every one must admit, determined to leave the House in time. And now, in bidding Mr. Biggs farewell, we may assure him that, if he has not gained a high Parliamentary reputation, he has faithfully discharged his duties to his constituents and secured general respect.

with certain of the human species, that, being from their childhood thrown into horse society, and having ample opportunities of observing that, compared with the intelligence of the brute, their own low, loose minds appear to little advantage, gradually conceive a violent hatred to Equus, and resolve to devote their entire lives to

THE HORSE REPOSITORY.

My grandfather being a man of small means, and being desirous of purchasing for pleasure and business purposes a horse, sound of wind and limb, and yet not of particularly noble blood, and of a value so low that the highly-bred hammer of Tattersall could not possibly descend to "knock it down," experienced considerable difficulty in suiting himself. He might wait for the annual horse fair at Barnet; but to select a decent beast from among the best of unkempt quadrupedal savages assembled, required an amount of subtle calculation and sagacity peculiar to purchasers of growing crops and cargoes of coconuts in the hushes. There was Smithfield, and had he been a butcher he would not have had the least hesitation in proceeding there alone to buy an ox or a score of sheep; but, had any friend suggested that he should visit Smithfield's chartered and officially-recognised weekly horse sale, the said friend would have been regarded as a simpleton unacquainted with metropolitan pitfalls, or as a wicked, practical joker.

There were several other courses open to my grandfather, all more or less objectionable; and among the latter the "auction-yard" of Messrs. Betty and Martingale and Mr. Spavinger's weekly horse sale. Mr. Spavinger's premises were not splendid; they were not even commodious, nor particularly clean. The entrance was a low archway, about the mouth of which lounged and leant any number of seely, tight-breeched blackguards—shrewd villains, most of them with a knowledge of horseflesh almost amounting to inspiration, and astute readers of the human countenance, enabling them at a glance to tell the simple visitor from the knowing, and so to shape their behaviour. At the same time, I am ready to believe that, except when brought in contact with equine nature, these unlucky dogs are as honest as the majority of us. They are like the terrier—if that respectable dog will pardon me—who is of peaceable disposition, just in his dealings with his own species and all other animals except the rat. Only show him a rat and he at once abandons his pacific demeanour and becomes a furious, mouthing little savage, anxious only to rend and tear and make havoc. So it would seem to be



J. BIGGS, ESQ., LATE M.P. FOR LEICESTER.—(FROM A PHOTOGRAPH BY J. EASTHAM.)



LONDON SKETCHES, NO. 17.—ALDRIDGE'S HORSE REPOSITORY

persecuting it, and to convincing the arrogant beast which is master. These worthies are like the terrier, inasmuch as they eat and drink with their fellows, and that without sponging or filching the bread or the beer: if they have wives and little children they will dutifully carry home such of their earnings as are left from their spendings; they will even turn the mangle should their wives possess such an instrument, or, at least, nurse the baby while she turns it. So far are they docile, harmless creatures; but show them a horse—that is, a horse whose owner wishes to dispose of him—let them but catch scent of one such, and his disquietude will begin. This peculiar species of individual will nose about here and there till he discovers it, when he will eagerly offer his services to the seller—he knows a gentleman as wants just such a mare, if you'll allow him to take it round to the gentleman's stables—he will not take no for answer—he has suggestions to make concerning the animal's appearance, and hints the difference a little "touching-up" would make, all the while fussing about his four-legged enemy, pulling open its eyelids and staring impudently into its eyes, wrenching its jaws asunder and examining its teeth, poking its withers, and investigating its hoofs. Decline his services flatly as you may, an uncontrollable itching, a right of further handling of the beast, possesses him; and, though he be absolutely driven away, there presently he is again, hovering about your quadruped like a baffled bobby.

To return, however, to Mr. Spavenger's horse auction. Penetrating the gloomy archway, you come to a sort of open court paved with those ingenious instruments of torture "cobble" stones, which, when trod, yielded with an unpleasant and inodorous oozing. Flanking one side of the auction-yard was a row of squalid stables, and flanking the other side was a double or triple row of such carriages, and carts, and trucks as were ordered for the day's sale. The company, with a praiseworthy endeavour to avoid the slushy pavement, mounted the various vehicles, while Mr. Spavenger, seated in front of an old cab, rested the catalogue of the goods against the dashiron, and knocked them on the driving-box; while his clerks sat within and took the purchase-money and gave receipts through the window.

Bad enough as all this was, it was still possible that fair dealing might have come out of it had the auctioneer been an honest man and the company bona fide buyers and sellers. This, however, was very far from being the case. That ancient and mysterious institution known as "knocking-out" held freer sway at horse and carriage auctions than any other, and before it the sale became a sham and the bidding the merest waste of time. "Knocking-out" at carriage and horse sales of the old school prevails to this day. There is a rough, ignorant man residing in a squalid street in the London-road, Southwark, who may be regarded as one of the chiefs of the knockers-out. He, however, does more in the vehicle and harness than in the horse branch of the business. His experience of carriages commenced with costermongers' barrows. He builds them and lets them out at eighteenpence a week, and at certain seasons of the year has as many as seventy so engaged. Not only does he let the barrows, he also stocks them with any sort of fruit with which the market happens to be glutted. Should contrary winds so retard the ships that bring cargoes of pineapples that the fruit is damaged before it reaches the consignee, the barrow-letter is the first at the Monument-yard sale, ready to buy damaged pines by the cartload to the extent of a hundred pounds' worth. The same with oranges and cherries. This fruit is farmed to the costermongers on the simple plan of "thirds"—that is, a fixed price is set, and the stock weighed or counted out to the vender before he starts in the morning and again when he returns at night, the produce being apportioned, two-thirds to the costermonger and a third to the proprietor of the fruit. During a good season the barrow-master's troop will easily take among them £30 a day; out of this he takes ten, besides the rent of the barrows and the original profit on his wholesale purchase of the pineapples or cherries.

Lucrative as this "game" must be, it is inferior to that of "knocking-out," which gives much less trouble, is accompanied by no noise, and continues summer and winter. It is conducted as follows:—The before-mentioned barrow-letter and a few choice companions meet at Mr. Spavenger's on a sale day. There are cabs, and phaetons, and horses, and harness to be sold; and the merry little troop of "knockers-out," although they have not the slightest intention of retaining a single article, intend purchasing at least half the goods presently to be submitted to public competition. The value of the goods on which the knockers-out have set their hearts amounts, say, to five hundred pounds; the knockers-out, among them, are not prepared with as many shillings. That, however, is not of the slightest consequence. If Mr. Spavenger and the knockers-out are friends, so much the better; if not, they "work" before his very eyes, and in defiance of him; they have done it a hundred times and will do it again. They have done it so many times that the habitual resorters to the horse and carriage auction know them, and at the same time know that there is not the slightest chance of buying a single article "wanted" by the banded "knockers-out." They may bid if they please, but the confederates will bid against them—will bid and buy a horse for twenty pounds worth ten. So the obstinate, honest bidder may compel the rascals to pay pretty dear for their whistle, bearing in mind one little circumstance—that when the obstinate bidding has gone five pounds further than prudence dictates, the knocker-out may suddenly pause, and allow the honest bidder the privilege of taking the disputed "lot" at half as much again as it is worth.

The key to the knocker-out's success is a fear on the part of the legitimate buyer that he may be suddenly left in the lurch as above described. The only way, therefore, to obtain what he wants at a moderate rate is for him to consult the conspirators before the sale begins. Says the buyer to one of the knockers-out, "Mr. Blinkum, I want lot 21, sorrel mare."

"You can't have her," replies Mr. Blinkum; "I've got her down" (whether he has or no, of course).

"I'm going as high as £17 for her," persists the buyer.

"Well," replies Mr. Blinkum, well knowing that she may be bought by the gang for £14, "if she is knocked down to me, you shall have her at that price."

So the game goes on till the sale is over, and then the gang adjourn to the nearest tavern and the "knocking out" commences. Say there are six in the gang. Each one produces his catalogue, with the articles knocked down to him notified. The case of Mr. Blinkum and the sorrel mare, however, will illustrate the whole proceeding.

"Lot 21—anybody want it?" asks Mr. B.

Nobody wants it. One of the clique, however, remarks that, since it was knocked down at £13, Mr. B. could afford to stump up handsomely for his bargain.

"I'll give you a crown each to go out" (out of the transaction), remarks Mr. B.

"I shan't take it," observes a conspirator.

"Then take the mare, and give us a crown each," retorts Mr. B., "with a pound to me for buying her."

This, however, does not meet the objector's views, and he finally agrees, as do the others, to "knock out" on consideration of receiving seven and sixpence, which Mr. B. pays, and has still left a profit of over two pounds on his bargain with the private buyer. In all probability the gang have at least twenty lots to discuss, resulting in the division of a very pretty spoil.

Thus it is that so universally is that near relative of the rogue family, Jeremy Diddler, supposed to be the patron saint of the genus equus and all that pertains thereto, that he must have been a bold man who first ventured to embark in the horse-dealing business with the steady determination to elevate it to at least the ordinary standard of commercial respectability, to establish a public auction differing from that of Messrs. Betty and Martingale, and Mr. Spavenger, inasmuch as a man utterly unknowing in equine matters might venture in and buy

a horse or a carriage with the certainty that he will not be chaffed by stable ruffians or fleeced by the common horse-sale shark, and that, whatever he may pay for his nag, he will be made thoroughly acquainted with its faults and failings, if it have any—a repository where the seller may with confidence bestow his property and regard its careful keeping as guaranteed. The gentlemen whose premises are pictured on the preceding page were among the foremost of those who attempted the establishment of such horse and carriage marts, and it is gratifying to know that their success has been complete; not without a long struggle, however. No little perseverance was required to convince the public that the St. Martin's Lane Repository was only superior to old Mr. Spavenger's yard as the gambling hells of the Haymarket are superior to the skittle-ground attached to the "Pig and Whistle"; while the host of "knockers-out" and "chaunters" and "copers," hearing of the scheme, set it down as the old dodge with a new cloak, and imagined that, by washing their faces and wearing white neckcloths, they could entirely meet the new rules. They have, however, discovered their mistake long ago, and gone back to Mr. Spavenger's, while the public are brought to understand that the purchase of a horse does not necessarily involve meddling either with edged tools or foul ones, and that by the exercise of ordinary discrimination the first essential to equestrianism may be obtained as easily as a new coat or a pound of cigars.

J. G.

CONCERTS.

IN spite of the generally-accepted proposition of Miss Capulet, that a rose by any other name would smell as sweet, there is an awkward risk to be run when we would christen anybody or anything symbolically, and long before there is any means of telling whether the symbol will fit. Little Blanche may be a great, red-faced young woman when she grows out of her pinafores; and Rose may be distinguished by an interesting, not to say a mealy, pallor. It would be easy to make out a list of pretty and significant titles which are liable to be frustrated by the perversity of those on whom they are bestowed; but our purpose is only to show that the Monday Popular Concerts would have been sadly misnamed if, in the first place, convenience had dictated their being given on Wednesdays; or, in the second, if they had turned out the reverse of popular. As it fortunately happens, they answer exactly to their name. If there is a more popular entertainment now in progress on Monday or other evenings, we should like to know where that entertainment is to be found.

The eleventh concert of the fourth season, and seventy-fifth of the series, took place on Monday last, and was in every respect delightful. For the first time, Cherubini's quartet in C, for stringed instruments, was played before an audience in St. James's Hall, the executants being Messrs. Sainton, Ries, Webb, and Piatti. This quartet is a new version of the orchestral symphony in D major, composed for, and performed at, the Philharmonic Society. Its present form is restricted only as to means, and it has still a marked symphonic character. The first allegro, after a short introduction beginning in C major and ending in C minor, sets out vigorously. The second subject of the movement is in the somewhat unusual key of the dominant minor, and its expression is one of extraordinary sweetness. The slow movement, in A minor, commences with a phrase for the violoncello, which is speedily contrasted with an episode in the major. Towards the end of the movement another marked episode occurs, and the lento closes very effectively. A most animated opening at once proclaims the character of the scherzo, and there is soon a wonderful trio in the tonic minor. The finale is quite dramatic in expression, and worthily crowns the work. The sonata in A flat, with its funeral march, played by Mr. Charles Hallé, is one of Beethoven's well-known productions, and we need say no more than that its execution by one of the first pianists of the day left nothing to be desired. A second novelty, however, was afforded the patrons of these concerts on the present occasion, and this was a fragmentary rendering of an unfinished quartet of Mendelssohn. The movements given were an andante sostenuto and scherzo, the latter of which was enthusiastically encored. Hummel's trio in E major, for pianoforte, violin, and violoncello, was played as the last piece by MM. Charles Hallé, Sainton, and Piatti. The vocalists were Miss Susannah Cole and Mr. Sims Reeves. Our great English tenor has been conspicuously absent of late, and his welcome was a cordial one. He sang Beethoven's "Bussied," the words of which, by Gellert, were "done into English," and, we may say, done for, as far as their suitability to music is concerned. Mr. Reeves afterwards sang another of Beethoven's songs, the glorious "Lieder Kreis," with more transcendent effect.

Herr Pauer has given the second of his interesting series of musical recitals at Willis's Rooms, and the only other events of the week have been a successful concert in aid of the funds for the relief of the persons bereaved by the Hartley Colliery accident; and the performances of the Lobengruen of Mendelssohn, and the Stabat Mater of Rossini by the Sacred Harmonic Society. Of the first of these two entertainments, it is sufficient to say that it consisted of a popular selection, in which Mdlle. Titiens, Mlme. Sainton-Dolby, Miss Arabella Goddard, Sig. Giuglini, and Messrs. Weiss, Benedict, and Howard Glover exerted themselves to the utmost. With regard to the Sacred Harmonic Society's performance, we are but able to speak of it by anticipation this week, as its accomplishment follows in course of time the appearance of our Paper.

THE FRENCH MARRIAGE LAW.—A CONTINENTAL WINDHAM.

THE Civil Tribunal of Tours has just been called upon to decide as to the validity of a marriage contracted in Switzerland by a young Frenchman, the son of an honourable family of Touraine. The principal facts of the case, as stated by counsel on both sides, are as follows:—M. Georges de L., the son of Baron L., being of rather delicate health when a child, was educated at home by a private tutor, but never made much progress in his studies. When the time came for choosing a profession he decided on entering the army, and presented himself as a candidate for the Government schools, but failed at all his examinations. He then enlisted, with his parents' consent, and remained in the service several years. He was on the point of receiving a commission as an officer when he fell into a dissipated course of life, was soon deeply involved in debt, and ultimately left the army. His parents paid his debts on condition that he should travel for some years, and he accordingly went to Italy, where he showed no signs of amendment, but became again involved in pecuniary difficulties. At Leghorn he fell in love with the daughter of a wealthy merchant and proposed marriage, but, as his parents refused their consent, the matter went no further. At Turin, in 1859, he met with a lady who passed there as the Countess de R., reputed to be a widow, with a daughter seven years of age. With this person he became so enamoured that he offered her marriage and solicited his father's consent, which was refused, in spite of all his efforts to obtain it, for his father had been credibly informed that the pretended Countess was an adventurer who had never been married, and, though belonging to a respectable family, had been leading a loose life in Paris and elsewhere for years. The young man was fully aware of this, but persisted in his intention to marry her, and ultimately the marriage was celebrated at Contrà, near Locarno, in Switzerland, in accordance with the Swiss laws. His father and mother had been duly informed of his intention, but the Swiss laws gave them no power to prevent the marriage. After living together a year or two, during which he exhausted his wife's resources and wearied out the patience of all her friends by his extravagance, he abandoned her and returned to his family, who immediately instituted the present suit to annul the marriage. The counsel for Mlme. de L. argued in favour of the validity of the marriage, and depicted the conduct of her husband in anything but flattering colours. He denied that there had been any concealment on her part respecting her real position; and maintained that, as the husband was above twenty-five years of age when he married, and had duly informed his parents of his intended union, the marriage was perfectly legal and could not be annulled. M. Pelletier, the substitute of the Procureur Imperial, gave his opinion that, as the marriage was not preceded by all the formalities required by the law of France, it must be invalidated. The tribunal, after a prolonged deliberation, declared that the opinions of the Judges were equally divided, and ordered that the cause should be tried again on a future day.

THE DEATH OF GENERAL GERSTENWEIG.—TRAGIC STORY.

A LETTER from St. Petersburg gives the following details of the death of General Gerstenweig, Military Commandant of Warsaw, which, it may be remembered, took place some months since.—"Three of the Aides-de-Camp of General Count Lambert, the Emperor's Lieutenant in Poland, became a loud altercation in the cabinet of the latter between him and General Gerstenweig, for the purpose of respectfully interposing; but the Count, without giving them time to speak, said, 'Gentlemen, I have just been grossly insulted,' and then, turning to the General, added, 'After the word you have just uttered, one of us must be dead to-morrow.' 'That should be so,' replied General Gerstenweig with the greatest coolness, and the three officers, who had entered on a friendly mission, witnessed the most singular arrangement. The laws in Russia interdict and severely punish duelling, and, moreover, in the present state of affairs in Poland, the effect would have been most disastrous if any dispute were known to have arisen between the two highest persons in the Government of the kingdom. It was therefore decided that lots should be drawn by the two adversaries as to which of them should put an end to his own existence. That said formality took place with the greatest coolness, for both Generals were models of bravery, and the lot fell on General Gerstenweig, who, turning to Count Lambert, said in a firm voice, 'Count, there are several matters connected with the service to be arranged, and I have also private papers to put in order, will it suit you if I do not execute the sentence until to-morrow?' 'It is just what I should myself have requested,' replied Count Lambert. The two stood courteously to each other, and General Gerstenweig withdrew. The three Aides-de-Camp, pale and motionless, remained silent, and the Count, with much emotion, said to them, 'I can readily conceive, gentlemen, the feelings which oppress you, but the fault of this deplorable event does not lie with me,' and then, striking his forehead with his hand, he added, 'What will greatly afflict me, the Emperor. I should have preferred that the tomb were opened for myself.' On the following day General Gerstenweig, standing before a looking-glass, discharged two pistols at his head. The ball of the first went round part of the frontal bone, making, however, a deep incision on the left side of the skull. The second was mortal, and the General fell. Two soldiers, on hearing the report, rushed into the room, and found him lying on the floor in great agony. They placed him on his bed, when he soon recovered his senses. He refused all medical assistance, but sent for his Aide-de-Camp. The report of his suicide soon became current, although every endeavour was used to make it believed that he had been struck by apoplexy. Count Lambert went to him, and, shaking him by the hand, expressed his regret for what had happened, and retired bathed in tears. The General lived for forty-two hours in the greatest suffering, and then expired. He was sensible to the last, begging the officers who were near him to conceal the cause of his death as long as possible from his wife. 'As to my son' (a young man of seventeen, now at St. Petersburg), 'let him know that I have not died like a coward, who failed in his duty, or feared the responsibility of his acts, but to obey the prescriptions of military honour. Let him know all, that he may honour the memory of his father.'

ANOTHER MATRIMONIAL HOAX.

THE practice of seeking for wives through the medium of advertisements seems to be on the increase in the North of England, and hoaxing the advertisers would also appear to be a favourite amusement with the demizens of the cotton-spinning regions. A Manchester paper gives the following account of a recent affair of this sort:—

About six weeks ago the following advertisement appeared in the Manchester papers:—"A young gentleman, of good position in society, is anxious to meet with a young lady of prepossessing appearance, liberal education, and a small private income, as partner for life. Address, post-paid, 'Excelsior,' Post Office, Southampton." How many letters the aspiring young gentleman received, of course we cannot tell; but one, signed "Helen Percy," pleased him so much that he commenced correspondence. Helen was "sweet sixteen," and possessed property yielding her an income of £300 a year. No wonder the youth was enamoured. Letters passed for some time, and Excelsior became the devoted lover of the unknown Helen. He relinquished his nominal secrecy, signed his letters "Robert," and sent a photographic portrait of himself to his fair correspondent. At her request he walked on the promenade at Southampton one day with a white camellia in his coat, hoping to meet Miss Helen, who came not. At last an interview was arranged to take place in the Exchange Arcade, Manchester, on Saturday afternoon week at two o'clock. The Helen of his dreams and letters had undergone a change more wonderful than a metamorphose in a pantomime, and, in the shape of a group of eager young men, awaited the hour in order to give Excelsior Robert a welcome to Manchester. While they waited a circumstance occurred which threatened to spoil their fun. A gentleman approached who unfortunately bore a striking likeness to the real Simon Pure. He was seized, but vociferated so earnestly that he was not the man that his assailants were compelled to believe him, especially when the word was passed that the right man was found. He had been in the Arcade when the mistake was made, and, perhaps suspecting something, he walked out and into the midst of a score who were waiting for him outside. The cry was raised, "How's Helen?" whereupon he ran and tried to enter several omnibuses, the guards of which refused him admission. By this time the crowd of persecutors numbered a hundred or two. Hoping to get rid of them, he ran towards the Thatched House Hotel, but did not enter, probably dreading the wine-bill that he might have been called upon to pay if he had been caught inside. So he preferred to face the crowd, and was hustled by his tormentors across Market-street, where he sought refuge in a passing cab. His quondam friends—at least nine of them—engaged a coach and followed in the hot pursuit down Deansgate into Hulme. There the wife-hunter—now the hunted—took to his heels up one of the small streets, and, entering a cottage, he hid himself in a bedroom. His pursuers traced him to his retreat, and, having gained the sympathies of the women in the neighbourhood to their side by a story that the young man they sought had a wife and family at home, and had come to Manchester to look after another woman, they began measures for dislodging him. By means of a clothes-prop one of the band climbed to the bedroom window, but beat a hasty retreat on discovering that the young man from Southampton was armed with a poker. An attempt was made to bribe the woman of the cottage for admission. But she refused the offered sovereign; and, after keeping the neighbourhood in a state of excitement for three hours, the advocates of orthodox courtship went their way, leaving the "young gentleman" to return to Southampton a sadder and wiser man.

A MISSING LADY.—For some time past an advertisement has appeared in the Times, and latterly paragraphs have appeared in some of the papers, concerning a young married lady who had mysteriously disappeared. The lady in question had been traced from Spain to the King's-cross station of the Great Northern Railway, where, in defiance of the inquiries of a host of detectives and police, she was lost sight of. It was suggested that she had left King's-cross by the 9.15 p.m. train for Leeds, and, having costed jewellery on her person, and valuable luggage in her possession, that some designing villains had taken seats in the same carriage, and robbed and perhaps murdered her during the transit of the train to Leeds. All mystery, however, has vanished, and the romance with which the affair was surrounded is now at an end. It appears that, although the lady was traced to the Great Northern Railway, and although she had taken her ticket for Leeds, she did not leave by the appointed train. For fully four hours did she remain at the King's-cross station on the evening of the 22nd of January last; but at the expiration of that time, as the sequel has developed, the jewels and luggage found their way, not to Leeds, but to that delightful suburb of London, Barnsbury, in a house in which locality their mistress was on Friday week discovered. The discovery of the lady was brought about by an article of baby's clothing and a large diamond ring having been found—we cannot say where—by the extraordinary skill of a vigilant detective, which article of clothing and ring were known to belong to no other than the missing lady. Once on the scent, her whereabouts was quickly discovered. Those in search of her proceeded to the domicile where she was said to be lodged, and, making friends with a servant attached to the establishment, through her agency obtained a pocket-handkerchief belonging to the strange lady-lodger which bore the name of the missing wife. A telegram was immediately dispatched to Leeds apprising the lady's relatives of the result of the chase. From a Leeds journal we learn that the lady in question is the wife of a Mr. Frederick Buxton, of Leeds, at present one of the staff of resident engineers of the Tuiela and Bilbao Railway, in Spain; and that Mr. Buxton, who is only in her twenty-second year, departed from Spain on a visit to her friends at Chapel Allerton, near Leeds, in consequence of her physicians advising her to try if her native air would re-establish her health, which had suffered seriously from the climate.—Globe. Mrs. Buxton is now in Leeds with her husband and friends. It appears from her own explanation that on arriving in England she was suffering intensely from the effects of sea sickness and fatigue, and when in a fainting and unconscious state was removed, in company with a lady and gentleman who had travelled in the same steamer from France, and placed in lodgings at Barnsbury. There her unconsciousness continued, her illness assuming the character of fever, in which she remained fifteen days. On her recovery she found that her luggage had been plundered of everything that was valuable—how or where she has no knowledge. How the diamond ring and the article of baby's clothing got to the place where they were found she has no knowledge. She communicated with her friends at Leeds to explain the position in which she was placed, and also wrote to her husband, who was then in Spain. The Leeds letter, unfortunately, either from misdirection or some other cause, did not reach her friends here, and it was some days before she was able to re-enter that country a telegram had apprised Mr. Buxton of her non-arrival in Leeds, and he immediately left for England.

wet, cold, and changeable.

THOMAS FOX, 2, Catherine-street, Strand, aforesaid.—SATURDAY
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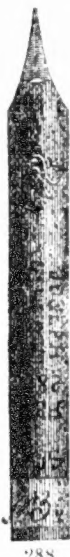
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